Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4125.)

F.O.

424

PART XLV.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. February 1880.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XLV.

No. 1.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 1, 1880.)

(No. 675.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, December* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a memorandum which I have received from M. de Giers respecting the Gussinjé-Plava question.

The information received by the Russian Government leads them to have serious doubts as to the attitude, if not of the Porte, at least of Moukhtar Pasha, and it is pointed out, in the inclosed document, that if Prince Nicholas withdrew his troops from the points they occupy—as he has been invited to do by Moukhtar Pasha—the Albanians will secure impregnable positions, and the Porte will then try to show that the giving up of Gussinjé is impossible, and thus evade the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have informed M. de Giers that I have forwarded this memorandum to your Lordship.'

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum.

LES informations qui arrivent au Ministère Impérial sont de nature à faire naître des doutes sérieux sinon sur l'attitude de la Porte, au moins sur celle de Moukhtar Pacha, relativement à l'affaire de Goussinjé-Plava.

C'est une véritable guerre qu'on organise contre le Monténégro. Jusqu'ici il n'y a pas eu de troupes Turques à Ipek, contrairement à l'assertion de Moukhtar Pacha, qui prétend avoir isolé cette place d'armes. Un bataillon entier vient de rendre ses armes à la populace à Bielopolié; les désertions des soldats et les livraisons d'armes aux habitants continuent dans toute l'Albanie. Tandis que Moukhtar Pacha invite le Prince Nicholas à retirer ses troupes des points qu'elles occupent, se faisant fort en pareil cas d'amener la remise de Goussinjé en employant même la force au besoin contre les Albanais, pourvu qu'on le laisse agir seul; il écrit au Sultan d'un autre côté qu'il craint une désertion de ses soldats et leur passage à l'insurrection, s'il devait recourir à la force pour réduire les Albanais. Si le Prince Nicholas convenait à retirer ses troupes le seul résultat serait de mettre les positions qu'il occupe aux mains des

Albanais, de manière à rendre matériellement impossible de les en déloger. Le but de ces manœuvres est d'amener la diplomatie, par des faits accomplis, à la conviction de l'impossibilité de la remise de Goussinjé et à l'opportunité d'une solution de l'affaire par voie de compensation. La Porte se présenterait alors sur la base avantageuse de *uti possidetis*.

Il est utile que la diplomatie Européenne soit éclairée sur ces calculs, qui auraient pour conséquence d'empêcher l'exécution du Traité de Berlin dans ces parages et pourraient y troubler sérieusement la paix.

No. 2.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1880.

ASK opinion of Austrian Government upon project of Prince of Montenegro explained in memorandum, substance of which is given in telegram from Green, repeated in my preceding telegram.

No. 3.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1880, 4 P.M.

GIVE what assistance you can to Austria in railway negotiation, not, however, allowing them to interfere with your Commercial Treaty.

[This telegram was repeated to Sir H. Elliot (No. 3.)]

No. 4.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

INFORMATION leads me to believe that personal honour of Emperor of Germany is engaged in pressing the exact fulfilment of Berlin compact about railways, so that Germany is not likely to recede.

It is believed also that Bismarck would be glad to fix a quarrel with Roumania upon this matter, as it would serve the combinations he is forming.

I cannot answer for these speculations, but as they come on good authority they are worth transmitting.

No. 5.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1880.

I HAVE to-day requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain the opinion of the Austrian Government upon the project of the Prince of Montenegro for dealing with the question of the cession of Gussinjé, which has been explained in a memorandum communicated to Mr. Green by the Montenegrin Government, the substance of which he has given in a telegram, dated the 30th ultimo, of which a copy has been sent to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 1, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a communication which I have received from the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, relative to the opposition offered by the Bulgarian authorities to the admission within the Principality of the Mussulman emigrants who are now anxious to return to their homes.*

You will perceive from the despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, of which a copy is also inclosed herewith,† that the Austrian Government propose to address a representation to the Bulgarian Government on behalf of these unfortunate people, and to suggest the appointment of Turkish and Bulgarian Commissioners for the purpose of expeditiously conducting the necessary inquiries before the emigrants are permitted to pass the frontier.

I request that you will support your Austrian colleague in the execution of his instructions upon this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 2, 1880.)

(No. 82. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, December* 15, 1879.

COLONEL ALLIX, who commands the Cretan gendarmerie, has just made a tour of inspection through the central and eastern parts of the island, having visited the western districts some months previously.

The result of his inspection has been on the whole satisfactory, considering that the greater part of the force is two months in arrears of pay, and that one battalion out of the five which compose the corps is five months in arrears. The battalion in question is that recruited in the Sandjak of Sphakia, comprising the caza of that name and those of Apokorona and Haghios Basili, the revenue raised from which falls far short of the required expenditure.

When Colonel Allix inspected them, they reminded him that he had promised that they should regularly receive 45 piastres a month out of the 150 due to them, in order to insure them the means of buying their daily bread, but even this pittance had been latterly withheld, and they were consequently starving, and refused any longer to remain in the ranks. The Colonel was forced to admit that the Government had broken its engagement with them, and he made no effort to oppose their departure, but hoped that means would soon be found to satisfy their moderate demands, when he expected to see them rejoin their corps.

Barring this defection, which, under the circumstances, was fully justified, the rest of the gendarmerie is reported by their Commander to be in a satisfactory condition. But a time of trial awaits it. Means have hitherto been found from the revenues of the Custom-house allotted to the Civil Administration to clothe and equip the entire force, but now that the tithes of agricultural produce have been collected, and little more will be forthcoming till barley harvest, it will be found impossible to pay them with regularity.

Colonel Allix reports the country as everywhere quiet, and the people generally contented, a report which quite bears out my own impressions received during the journey I made over the same ground less than two months ago.

From the return of the corps of gendarmerie furnished me by the Colonel, a copy of which I have the honour to annex, it will be seen that the total force amounts to close upon 2,000. This seems an excessive number to keep order in a country supposed to contain only 270,000 inhabitants, the male adults of which should not number more than 70,000.

It will hardly be believed, however, that the organization provided for the island after the suppression of the insurrection of 1866 allowed for a force of 4,000 zaptiehs, so that the existing establishment may be considered as modest in comparison.

* Musurus Pasha, December 23, 1879. † Sir H. Elliot, No. 824.

With the growth of prosperity it may be found possible still further to reduce it, for it is notorious that many were taken into the ranks from motives of policy, certain Chiefs, whom it was advisable to conciliate, being anxious to find employment for followers who had no means of livelihood. It was subsequently found necessary to disband two companies, as they were in excess of the force fixed by the Assembly.

Some complaints had been heard that the Christian officers were greatly in excess of the Mussulman, but the annexed list shows them to be not as numerous as the relative proportions of the two religious communities would warrant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Force of Gendarmes in Crete in December 1879.

			Christians.		Mussulmans.	
1st Battalion (Canea)—						
Officers	19		9		10	
Non-commissioned officers	..	78	..	37	..	41
2nd Battalion (Sphakia)—						
Officers	13		8		5	
Non-commissioned officers	..	52	..	42	..	10
3rd Battalion (Rethymo)—						
Officers	13		7		6	
Non-commissioned officers	..	52	..	26	..	26
4th Battalion (Candia)—						
Officers	16		9		7	
Non-commissioned officers	..	65	..	35	..	30
5th Battalion (Mirabella)—						
Officers	13		6		7	
Non-commissioned officers	..	52	..	29	..	23
Souaris (Mounted Police)—						
Non-commissioned officers	..	21	..	9	..	12
Total—						
Officers	74		39		35	
Non-commissioned officers	..	320	..	178	..	142

Of the 74 officers, 47 can read and write. Of the 320 non-commissioned officers, 104 can read and write. There are 1,473 gendarmes, and 101 mounted police, exclusive of officers; besides 29 accountants, making a total of 1,997. 2,052 was the number fixed by the General Assembly.

No. 8.

Consul-General Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 2, 1880.)

(No. 167. Political.)
Scutari, December 23, 1879.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that the difficulties foreshadowed in my despatch No. 161, Political, of the 30th ultimo, about the speedy surrender of Gussinjé by Moukhtar Pasha, are thickening rapidly, and from this purely local and limited standpoint they can only be viewed as receiving a certain amount of support from the Turkish authorites.

Moukhtar Pasha has now been some time at Prisrend with eleven battalions, a force quite sufficient to continue his march either to Ipek or Jacova, and there impose his wishes upon the Chiefs with whom he is asserted to be negotiating from Prisrend. The Pasha must know these people sufficiently well to feel that delay at Prisrend merely affords them time to tamper with the fidelity of his troops, and that there are only two ways of negotiating with Albanians, viz., by money or force.

I shall not be at all surprised to learn, if Moukhtar Pasha has no secret instructions to delay, that whilst the Porte is urging him on it quite neglects to furnish him with the means of advancing, and that his troops, like the rest of the Turkish army in these provinces, are nearly starved with shortened rations and left with the rags which hardly covered them during the summer.

Ottoman troops moving about in North and North-east Albania are also very much in the position of an enemy with a native population sufficiently strong to resist requisitions; they therefore have entirely to depend for their subsistence on a distant base of operations, and if this is ill-supplied the responsibility of neglect rests with the Central Administration, and cannot be shifted on to the shoulders of the Pasha, who is not given the means of obeying his orders.

Persons intimately connected with the League still lead me to suppose that they continue to enjoy the secret support of the Sultan, and that the troops now marching towards Gussinjé will suddenly be found to melt away or join the Albanians in crushing once for all the Montenegrins; and I have been informed within the last few days that Ali Pasha has sent messages to the Roman Catholic tribes summoning them to join him, and threatening speedy punishment in the event of disobedience.

As the Christian tribes feel strong in their mountains, they will probably maintain their neutrality until Ali Pasha and his bands retreat from Gussinjé, when they will most likely relieve them of their arms and pillage their baggage; and then await quietly the foreign Power which they expect will step in and put an end to the anarchy and disorder brought about by Nazif and Hussein Pashas, apparently with the entire approbation of those who are to be the greatest sufferers.

I observe also that the Austrian Consular authorities are showing no uneasiness at the difficulties which have arisen in the surrender of Gussinjé, although I have not been able to ascertain, as some declare, that they have materially assisted in creating them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 9.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, January* 2.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 1*er Janvier*, 1880.

UNE dépêche de Scutari d'Albanie, adressée au "Standard" et publiée par l'Agence Havas, annonce que des troubles ont éclaté à Prisrend, et que deux églises Grecques, ainsi que plusieurs maisons Chrétiennes, ont été pillées et brûlées; la garnison serait impuissante à maintenir l'ordre.

Il n'y a pas un mot de vrai dans cette dépêche. L'ordre le plus parfait continue à régner non-seulement à Prisrend, où Moukhtar Pacha se trouve en personne, mais dans les villes les plus rapprochées de la frontière Monténégrine, telles que Yakova et Ipek.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 2.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, January 1, 1880.

THE Commissioners have informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that, not having received a written communication explaining last delay, and having waited four days without fresh meeting having been appointed, they have been compelled to submit to their Governments that continuation of the negotiations would be useless.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 11.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, January 1, 1880.

GREEK Government have sent instructions to their Commissioners at Constantinople to invite their Turkish colleagues, as no result appears possible by direct negotiations, to join with them in referring the solution of the Frontier question to the mediation of the Powers.

No. 12.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1127.)
Constantinople, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship has been good enough to forward me, in your despatch No. 1450 of the 4th instant, the copy of a despatch from Sir H. Elliot, in which his Excellency reports that Prince Labanoff had passed through Vienna without endeavouring to see Baron Haymerle, who was not even aware of his being there. I cannot understand this, as Count Zichy himself told me that Prince Labanoff had requested him to telegraph to Vienna to ask Baron Haymerle to receive him on his way through that city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 13.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1134.)
Constantinople, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE informed the Prime Minister that complaints have reached me that the native element is not sufficiently represented on the Commissions appointed in the Vilayets of Adrianople and Salonica, for the examination of the new Organic Statute to be introduced into the Turkish European provinces, in pursuance of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. I observed that the large majority of Government officials placed upon the Commissions appeared to justify these complaints, his Highness promised me that he would write on the subject to the Valis, and declared emphatically that it was his sincere desire that the populations, Mussulmans and Christians alike, should be loyally consulted, and that their views with regard to the new Constitution, under which they are to live, should be taken into the fullest consideration.

His Highness gave me a copy of the new "Règlement," and said that, as it was the intention of the Sultan that it should be applied to His Majesty's Asiatic, as well as to his European provinces, he was desirous of having my opinion on it. I am now having it translated, and will forward a translation of it to your Lordship as soon as completed. It is of considerable length.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 14.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1137.)
Constantinople, December 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Acting Consul Blunt's despatch No. 62 of the 23rd October last, inclosed in copy in my No. 957 of the 5th ultimo, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a note from the Porte denying the reported murder of three Christians in the neighbourhood of Ouzoun-Keupru. I have communicated this note to Mr. Consul Calvert.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Memorandum.

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Décembre*, 1879.

DANS un télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, Réouf Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Andrinople, dément la nouvelle de l'assassinat de trois Chrétiens

dans le district d'Ouzoun-Keupru ; aucun fait de cette nature n'est parvenu jusqu'ici à la connaissance des autorités Impériales à l'exception du cas d'un certain Ahmed qui a été trouvé brûlé au milieu de la forêt près d'Omourdja, mais l'enquête a prouvé que cet individu avait été foudroyé.

No. 15.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1140.)
Constantinople, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a re-translation of a letter published in the Turkish newspaper "Vakit," which is attributed to Prince Labanoff, respecting the Gussinjé question, and the relations of Turkey with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 15.

Letter from Prince Labanoff to a Friend.—(*Published in the "Vakit," December* 20, 1879.)

(Traduction.)

VOUS m'écrivez que depuis mon départ de Constantinople aucune question importante n'y a surgi. Cependant, j'ai lieu de croire que beaucoup de communications importantes ait été échangées entre la Sublime Porte et les Ambassades, par rapport à la question de Goussinjé. Quant à moi, je n'avais pas jusqu'à présent attaché beaucoup d'importance à la question de Goussinjé, et j'en parlais de temps à autre comme d'une chose qui devait avoir son exécution d'après les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, et qu'il n'y avait que des hommes naïfs qui pouvaient entretenir des doutes à cet égard. Cependant, d'après les informations spéciales que je reçois maintenant, certains Gouvernements ont fait de cette question un moyen d'insinuations secrètes et s'en sont servis comme d'une intrigue diplomatique, en tenant un autre langage aux Grandes Puissances et un langage différent à la Sublime Porte. La Russie, pour mettre fin à toutes ces intrigues, a proposé une représentation collective des Puissances auprès de la Sublime Porte. Les diplomates qui s'y sont opposés n'ont jamais voulu faire savoir ce qu'il fallait faire dans le cas où la question prendrait de grandes proportions de gravité. Je crains que quelques milliers d'Albanais, mettant à néant dans leur esprit les Traités et les Conventions, se jetteront dans la lutte. Il se peut que la conséquence en soit quelques escarmouches d'avant-garde ; mais si une grande perturbation au contraire s'ensuit, qui en aura la responsabilité, à qui s'en prendra-t-on ? Quant à moi, je déclare, sans vouloir dire que cela soit l'opinion de mon Gouvernement, que la responsabilité d'une telle éventualité incombe à l'Autriche et à l'Angleterre. L'Angleterre, par ses instigations en Orient, a donné du courage à beaucoup de partis. La guerre entre la Russie et la Sublime Porte avait pris de grandes proportions uniquement à cause des instigations apparentes et secrètes de l'Angleterre. Quant à l'Autriche, elle a beaucoup fait de son côté pour que cette guerre eût lieu. Les décisions prises dans le Congrès, provoqué en vue de faire échouer les conséquences de la susdite guerre, n'ont pas été conformes aux désirs des deux Puissances. Elles voulaient que toute l'Europe se réunisse pour annuler le résultat des efforts de la Russie et rendre l'Angleterre et l'Autriche toutes-puissantes en Orient. L'Europe n'y a pas consenti. Elle a établi un état de choses qui ne devait pas porter atteinte à l'influence de la Russie. Seulement, par rapport à certains points, comme la répartition de territoire, elle a fait preuve de négligence. Or, les susdites deux Puissances ne sont pas sans désirer qu'il se rencontre des difficultés dans l'exécution des dispositions du Traité de Berlin. De telles instigations extérieures ne sont-elles pas de nature à compliquer et à rendre difficiles toutes les affaires de l'Orient ? Quoiqu'il en soit, je vois que je suis sorti un peu des limites d'une lettre privée. A Constantinople il y a beaucoup de personnes qui s'intéressent aux questions politiques et particulièrement à celles qui concernent l'exécution du Traité de Berlin ; mais il n'est pas possible de se dissimuler qu'il n'y en a très-peu qui considèrent dans quelle direction se trouve le véritable intérêt des Turcs. Dernièrement j'ai mis la main sur une brochure publiée à Paris par rapport

aux relations des Puissances. Dans cette brochure l'auteur juge avec beaucoup de sens les relations de chaque Etat, et de même il replique avec sagacité les relations présentes et futures entre la Porte et la Russie. J'aurai voulu que la brochure en question fût lue par les hommes éclairés à Constantinople, mais comme c'est l'Ambassadeur Russe qui vous la recommende, elle devient certainement suspecte. Il n'est pas moins vrai que la qualité qui la distingue c'est son impartialité.

No. 16.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1143.)

Constantinople, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1113 of the 16th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of Sawas Pasha's reply to the note of the Greek Plenipotentiaries of the 15th instant on the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—*24th December.*—I also inclose copy of a further note addressed to the Porte by the Greek Plenipotentiaries on this subject.

A. H. L.

Inclosure 1 in No. 16.

Sawas Pasha to M. Coundouriotis.

Le 19 *Décembre*, 1879.

J'AI reçu dans l'après-midi du $\frac{1}{13}$ courant la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser à la date du $\frac{1}{13}$.

Je m'empresse d'y répondre. Votre Excellence ne saurait avoir oublié qu'au sortir de notre dernière séance je lui avait très-franchement déclaré que, pour répondre au Mémoire que nos honorables collègues venaient de nous remettre à l'effet d'expliquer et de justifier la ligne proposée par eux—Mémoire qui était le résultat d'une minutieuse étude préparée de longue main, nous aurions besoin de plusieurs semaines; que toutefois, tenant compte du désir particulièrement exprimé par nos collègues de Grèce, nous consentions à adopter comme date de notre prochaine séance le jour qu'ils nous proposaient, nous réservant naturellement la faculté de remettre notre réunion, si le temps qui nous était accordé devenait insuffisant.

Les deux ajournements que nous avons demandés, et qui nous ont conduits au $\frac{1}{25}$ Décembre, nous laisseraient vingt-cinq jours pour l'étude des questions politiques et techniques soulevées par les dernières propositions de nos collègues, et je ne crois pas que l'on puisse nous accuser d'avoir abusé de la faculté que nous nous étions réservée de faire remettre notre prochaine réunion.

Quant au dernier ajournement, votre Excellence me permettra de lui avouer que la forme même dans laquelle j'avais pris la décision de le proposer semblait devoir lui assurer un plus gracieux et plus favorable accueil. En envoyant en effet des motifs personnels, je pensais faire comprendre assez clairement à votre Excellence que je n'étais point encore en mesure d'aborder la discussion, et j'espérais que cette considération serait suffisante pour lui faire agréer ce retard inévitable.

D'ailleurs, dès le lendemain de cette communication j'avais pris soin de confirmer à M. le Premier Drogman de la Légation de Grèce mon sentiment à cet égard, en lui faisant comprendre que j'avais tout lieu d'espérer que cet ajournement ne serait pas inutile pour la bonne conduite des travaux de la Conférence, en vue du but final que nous nous proposons, et en lui déclarant qu'en tout cas je me considérerais comme l'obligé personnel de votre Excellence, si elle voulait bien accepter cette remise sans difficulté et de bonne grâce.

J'ai donc été à la fois très-étonné et très-affligé en prenant connaissance de la note que votre Excellence a cru devoir m'adresser en réponse à ma dernière communication.

Quoiqu'il en soit, et faisant trêve à mes regrets, je constate que la note de votre Excellence accompagne un travail considérable, composé de deux parties distinctes:

l'une consacrée à la critique de la ligne tracée par nous sur les hauteurs méridionales des Vallées des Calamas et du Pénéus, conformément au Protocole du Congrès de Berlin; la seconde contenant la proposition d'une nouvelle ligne septentrionale proposée par le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce, et appuyée par un travail sous forme d'annexe renfermant de nombreux arguments tirés de l'art militaire, et dont l'application doit être confié à des hommes spéciaux.

Or, je déclare en toute sincérité que ces documents non-seulement exigent une étude attentive de la part des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, mais encore appellent les délibérations du Gouvernement, et que cette double tâche, quelque diligence que nous y apportions, nécessitera l'emploi d'un certain temps que tous nos efforts tendront à abréger, mais qu'il me serait impossible de limiter dès aujourd'hui.

Que votre Excellence me permette de lui rappeler que deux fois déjà au sein de nos Conférences j'ai été assez heureux pour conjurer, par un appel pressant à la conciliation, l'éventualité d'une rupture que je considérais comme contraire aux intérêts des deux pays.

Le même sentiment m'engage encore aujourd'hui à prier votre Excellence de renoncer à toute résolution extrême qui serait d'autant moins justifiée qu'elle viendrait à l'encontre de l'évidente nécessité d'étudier mêmement les dernières communications du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce, et de l'assurance que je me plais à donner à votre Excellence, de fixer le jour de notre prochaine séance à la date la plus rapprochée qu'il nous sera possible.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 16.

M. Coundouriotis to Sawas Pasha.

Péra, ce $\frac{12}{24}$ *Décembre*, 1879.

M. le Ministre,

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser Vendredi dernier, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Décembre.

Je regrette infiniment que ma lettre du $\frac{3}{15}$ du mois courant ait produit à votre Excellence une pénible impression.

Ma lettre ne constatait qu'une suite d'ajournement dont la conséquence logique était pour mes collègues et pour moi l'impossibilité d'en accepter un autre.

Toutefois nous l'avons accepté; mais nous avons dû exprimer à votre Excellence notre désir que cet ajournement fût le dernier; et pour éviter de nouveaux retards que l'expérience du passé devait nous faire craindre pour l'avenir, nous nous sommes empressés de soumettre à votre Excellence notre dernière proposition, en ajoutant que dans le cas où un autre ajournement aurait lieu qu'il n'y aurait pas de proposition concrète et formelle de la part de la Sublime Porte, nous serions forcés, à notre grand regret, de considérer les négociations comme ne pouvant plus aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant.

Le premier des deux cas que nous avions prévu s'est vérifié. Par la lettre à laquelle j'ai l'honneur de répondre, votre Excellence nous demande un autre ajournement, et cette fois-ci un ajournement *sine die*.

Puisque votre Excellence a bien voulu justifier cet ajournement par la nécessité de faire étudier notre proposition par des hommes spéciaux, et de la soumettre aux délibérations du Gouvernement Impérial, elle m'accorde par cela même le droit d'apprécier cette justification.

J'avoue qu'après dix-huit mois depuis la signature du Protocole, après les Conférences de Preveza, après quatre mois depuis que les Conférences actuelles ont commencé, après trois Mémoires savamment élaborés, dans lesquels on a traité successivement de la ligne méridionale et de la ligne du thalweg, et après les discussions approfondies auxquelles ces Mémoires ont donné lieu, il nous est difficile de comprendre qu'un temps indéfini soit encore nécessaire pour étudier les modifications que par notre dernier Mémoire nous avons apportée à la ligne que nous avons eu l'honneur de proposer, il y a déjà plus d'un mois, à nos honorables collègues. Nous ne serions donc pas justifiés en consentant à un ajournement indéfini pour un motif qui nous est incompréhensible.

Mais dans la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser elle exprime très-vivement le regret que sa demande antérieure n'ait pas obtenu de notre part un plus gracieux et plus favorable accueil, et elle veut bien ajouter qu'elle en a été très-étonnée et affligée.

Il n'a jamais été dans notre intention de donner à votre Excellence un motif d'affliction, et ce n'est que pour éviter que ce reproche immérité nous soit encore adressé, que nous consentons d'attendre jusqu'à Samedi prochain, le $\frac{15}{27}$ de ce mois courant. Mais je dois de nouveau prévenir votre Excellence que dans le cas où jusqu'à ce jour il n'y aurait pas de séance ou il n'y aurait pas de proposition concrète et formelle, nous serions forcés de donner suite à la déclaration finale contenue dans ma dernière lettre.

Que votre Excellence me permette de répondre, en terminant, à un passage de sa lettre qui me regarde personnellement. Au sortir de notre dernière séance j'ai bien entendu que votre Excellence demandait du temps pour faire traduire les documents produits par nous; mais les mots "plusieurs semaines" n'ont pas frappé mes oreilles, et mes collègues ne les ont pas entendus. Quant à l'appel que votre Excellence a fait deux fois à la conciliation j'en ai gardé le plus vif souvenir. Mes collègues et moi nous avons répondu bien des fois à cet appel. Il dépend maintenant de votre Excellence de rendre ces dispositions efficaces en coupant court à toute discussion oiseuse, et à tout retard injustifiable, et en nous offrant une proposition réelle et pratique.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. S. COUNDOURIOTIS.

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1144.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 22, 1879.

AS your Lordship is no doubt aware, the contracts entered into with the British officers who were invited to Constantinople to organize the gendarmerie expire in about six months. I have every reason to believe that they will not be renewed, and that the Porte, availing itself of the excuse to get rid of those officers, will inform them that their services are no longer required.

The conduct of the Porte in this matter affords a striking instance of its habitual bad faith, and of the artifices to which, in its cunning, it has recourse to deceive the European Powers.

It was with a view to satisfying Her Majesty's Government of its earnest intention to form an effective gendarmerie for the protection of the life and property of the Sultan's subjects, and especially of the Christians, that British officers were engaged to organize that corps. Since their arrival here every possible excuse and subterfuge have been used by the Turkish Government to evade its engagements in this respect, and to prevent the employment of these officers. When, as in the case of Colonel Blunt, a Governor-General of a province, upon his own responsibility, availed himself of the services of one of them, the Porte, by refusing to confer upon him, by a Firman, the necessary authority, and by throwing every difficulty in his way, has done its utmost to thwart his endeavours to perform his duty successfully, evidently with the object of finding a pretext for asserting that he was incapable of discharging it, and the attempt to employ British officers had failed in consequence of their incapacity.

The only instance in which a British officer has apparently been employed with good results, in consequence of his having received the necessary authority and support, is that of Colonel Allix, in Crete. But fortunately that island has been, to a great extent, removed from the baneful influence of the Porte.

Over and over again I have received distinct promises from the Porte that the English gendarmerie officers, who have regularly received their pay, and have been wasting their time in idleness here, were about to be immediately employed, and were to be sent into the provinces. I have even been furnished, on more than one occasion, with the names of the vilayets for which they were each destined. But nothing came of it.

I have every reason to believe that the opposition to the employment of the English officers has mainly come from Osman Pasha, who, unfortunately, has sufficient influence at the Palace to prevent any good intentions with regard to the reorganization of the gendarmerie that might have been entertained by the Ministers of the Sultan from being put into execution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 18.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1147. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed to me by a Turkish General with whom I am not, I believe, personally acquainted, but who signs his name (which I think it prudent to omit in the copy) complaining of the manner in which the officers in the Turkish army are treated, describing the discontent which exists amongst them and the grave consequences to which it may lead, and denouncing the Minister of War, Osman Pasha. I attach considerable importance to this letter, as I have received numerous personal communications from Turkish officers of high rank to the same effect, and have reason to fear that the general disaffection which now prevails amongst the Turkish troops may some day lead to very grave results.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard by a Turkish General.

(Très-réservée.)

Excellence, *Constantinople, le* 10 *Décembre*, 1879.

PARMI les Grandes Puissances qui ont à cœur le bien-être de la Turquie, la première et la plus puissante est l'Angleterre, dignement représentée par votre Excellence, et c'est pour cela que je prends la liberté de vous adresser une prière pour une affaire de la plus haute importance. Excellence, les militaires souffrent beaucoup, et particulièrement les officiers; ceux qui sont absents parce que leurs familles depuis deux et trois mois ne sont pas payées du Syparisch déjà fixé pour vivre avec leurs enfants, et ceux qui sont à Constantinople bien davantage avec leurs familles, parce qu'ils n'ont pas de Syparisch ni un jour d'appointement. Les tains (*sic*) qu'ils touchent sont de la plus mauvaise qualité et tout-à-fait insuffisants. Les militaires ne sont pas payés que des mois de Mars et Avril de l'année courante ! ! !

Le mécontentement est général, et j'assure votre Excellence que dans toute l'armée existent des symptômes très-alarmants. Excellence! Le Seraskérait n'a été jamais aussi mal administré et toute la faute est à Osman Pacha, qui n'a été jamais Administrateur consciencieux et capable, et qui, grâce à l'animosité des Hongrois contre les Russes, il a gagné une réputation de bon Général, quoiqu'il a agi dans la guerre passée contre les règles de l'art militaire, et il a causé la perte d'une armée très-puissante qu'il commandant, et qui, par cause d'entêtement et manque de bon vouloir, il a laissé bloquer par les Russes, qui l'ont enfermé dans un cercle de fer. Osman Pacha, parvenu au grade de Seraskier, ne s'est occupé qu'à ordonner en Souverain absolu, et à détourner des sommes considérables de l'Administration militaire au bénéfice d'une autre Administration, au lieu de payer quelque appointement aux pauvres officiers et les Syparisch aux pauvres femmes des officiers absents. Mais lui et ses protégés ont trouvé le moyen de se payer régulièrement. Excellence! Y a-t-il au monde un autre Gouvernement qui traite de cette manière les militaires? Que pourrait arriver si les soldats et surtout les officiers, exaspérés à coup d'un mauvais traitement sans limite, perdent tout-à-fait la patience? Que le bon Dieu nous préserve d'une calamité pareille, que le Gouvernement aveugle semble défier. Qu'arriverait-il si l'armée se soulève et s'unit à la population, très-mécontente? Voilà, Excellence, ce que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre à la probité, humanité, et sagesse de votre Excellence, qui ne manque pas des moyens et de bonne volonté pour le bien-être de ce malheureux Empire.

No. 19.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 3, 1880.*)

(No. 1149.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL MICHELL, in his despatch to your Lordship No. 410 of the 20th instant, transmitted through me, states that the Governor-General, Aleko Pasha, had informed his Council that he had received a telegraphic communication from the Porte to the effect that it had heard through the British Embassy that the Government of Eastern Roumelia had only disbursed a sum of 1,200 Turkish liras for the relief of the Mussulman refugees, including a sum of 800 Turkish liras appropriated for a distribution of seed.

I beg to say that no such communication has been made by me to the Porte, that I cannot find any trace of such information having been sent to me by Mr. Michell, and that I know absolutely nothing about the matter. I have no doubt that there is some intrigue in the business, at the bottom of which is Aleko Pasha himself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 20.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 3, 1880.*)

(No. 1151. Confidential.) *Constantinople, December 24, 1879.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting private letter addressed to me by Colonel Allix, the English officer sent to Crete for the organization of the gendarmerie. It will show your Lordship how much could have been done if the officers obtained from England by the Porte two and a-half years ago, with the object of forming the gendarmerie, had been employed, and if they had been properly supported, and furnished with sufficient authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Colonel Allix to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canée, December 12, 1879.

Dear Sir Henry Layard,

I HAVE just terminated a minute inspection of the Cretan gendarmerie throughout the entire island of Crete, and I think it will interest you to have the exact detail that I am enabled to give you, when I tell you that in nine days I rode 300 miles, crossed the island four times from sea to sea, personally inspected over 1,300 men, and personally examined some 200 officers and non-commissioned officers, you will see that all my orders were obeyed with scrupulous exactitude, and a great system of regularity already prevails, or such an undertaking would have been impossible. I had sent orders that such and such companies should be ready on such a day, at such an hour, and perhaps in the most out-of-the-way parts of the mountains. They were all there ready to the minute.

I inclose you a status of officers and non-commissioned officers, showing you the proportions of Christians and Turks, &c. I have now all told, including clerks, &c., a force of exactly 2,000 men, all dressed in similar uniform, the greater part regularly paid, and the whole by degrees being drilled and thoroughly instructed in their duties. The number seems very large, but it is not too large for the present state of the island, bearing in mind the almost inaccessible mountainous character of the country. Next year the revenue will much exceed the expenditure, and the small arrears there are will all be paid up. I wish they would renew my contract for another year, and I will guarantee the force shall be a model one. The only district where I have not succeeded is one called Sfakdia; there authority is openly set at defiance; and I am convinced that the presence of troops there is the only way of maintaining peace and order.

I have absolute authority here in every way; the Vali Photiades Pasha supports

and assists me through thick and thin, so much so, that I am going to pray your Excellency to send him a message of your approbation through Mr. Sandwith. In fact, I receive the greatest aid from every one, the Firman that I was so lucky to get having given me a defined and certain position and great authority.

In riding over all parts of the island I was quite astonished to find the immense respect and estimation which was shown by all classes, high and low, by all sects, Mussulmans and Christians, for Mr. Sandwith, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul. At much fatigue and trouble he has made himself personally conversant with all parts of the isle, and gained the confidence of the people. I had a long letter from General Baker the other day, and send a reply addressed to the Embassy, which I hope will reach him, as he asks for much information. The Turkish Colonel of the gendarmerie here (recently promoted), Emin Bey, is a man in every way fitted for his post, and a great assistance to me. I have also an invaluable Aide-de-camp in Ziver Bey, an ex-Austrian officer, who accompanied me on staff from Constantinople. Unfortunately he receives only 5*l.* a-month for himself and family, and the Porte refuses to increase his rank or pay, though he is a man most thoroughly deserving both. I find that Photiades Pasha gives fair satisfaction throughout the island, by far the most popular act he has done being the reformation of the Law Courts by M. Scalzouni.

(Signed) NOEL ALLIX,
Commanding Gendarmerie of Crete.

No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 3, 1880.*)

(No. 1154.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 24, 1879.*

WASSA EFFENDI, whom Consul Calvert informed me recently had been sent by Raouf Pasha to endeavour to prevail upon the Porte to sanction the arrangements proposed by his Excellency for settling the reclamations of the Beys of the Province of Adrianople, for property destroyed during the war, and the Russian occupation, and for providing relief for the refugees, called upon me to-day, to say that he was returning to that city to-morrow without having succeeded in his mission. He informed me that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, and the Minister of Justice, to whom the matter was specially referred, had both entirely approved of Raouf Pasha's suggestions, and had strongly recommended that they should be adopted, but that for some reason or other the Prime Minister opposed them. He had called this morning, he said, on Said Pasha to urge upon him the great importance of agreeing to them without delay, as otherwise serious difficulties might arise in the province. His Highness angrily ordered him to return to his duties as Mutesharr of the vilayet at once.

Wassa Effendi is of opinion that if the compromise suggested by Raouf Pasha for the settlement of the claims of the Beys be not accepted and enforced by the Porte, there is a great risk of the Christians of the province being exposed to ill-treatment and outrages, which may lead to a very grave outbreak, and very serious consequences to Turkey. Raouf Pasha appears to have succeeded hitherto in reconciling the populations of different creeds and races, and in maintaining peace and harmony amongst them; but if the Mussulman Notables, many of whom made their fortunes by plundering the Christians, are supported by the Porte in enforcing all the claims they may put forward for the restoration of movable property left by them when they quitted the province, the Christians will be driven into resistance, and blood will flow.

I have pressed upon both Said and Sawas Pashas the importance of supporting Raouf Pasha, who appears to be acting with justice, moderation, and impartiality, but unfortunately the Beys have powerful friends in high places.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1157.)
Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch to your Lordship, No. 107 of the 2nd December, transmitted under flying seal through me, I availed myself of an opportunity to ask the Sultan whether or not he had conferred the "Grand Cordon" of the Order of "Osmaniyet" upon Aleko Pasha, as so many contradictory reports had reached me on the subject.

His Majesty replied, with some warmth and indignation, that he had not. He added that he was greatly displeased with the conduct of the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, and should be glad to get rid of him if possible. His Majesty asked me whom I should recommend to replace him.

I said that I was glad to hear from His Majesty that he had not given so signal a mark of his favour to Aleko Pasha. The report that he had done so, I said, had already produced a very bad impression. It was looked upon as a proof of His Majesty's approval of the conduct of his Excellency towards the unfortunate Mussulman refugees who had returned to the province, and who were exposed to the most terrible privations and sufferings. I hoped, I observed, that His Majesty would do something for their relief.

His Majesty replied that he had deep compassion for these poor people, and would endeavour to have some money sent to them. He felt very strongly, he added, the manner in which Aleko Pasha had treated them.

Our conversation was here interrupted, and nothing more passed on the subject.

As Aleko Pasha appears to be making political capital out of the report that he had received the "Osmaniyet," I sent the telegram, of which I inclose a copy *en clair* to Mr. Michell.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Michell.

(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

I HAVE received assurance from the Sultan himself, that he has not conferred upon Aleko Pasha the Osmaniyet, and his Excellency cannot, therefore, pretend that His Majesty approves his conduct towards the unfortunate Mussulman refugees, for whom His Majesty expressed the greatest compassion. Nor has the British Embassy made the communication to the Porte mentioned by Aleko Pasha, and referred to in your despatch No. 410.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1158. Confidential.)
Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

My Lord,

THE Sultan, whom I saw in private after the public reception of the Diplomatic Body to-day, on the occasion of the commencement of the new (Mussulman) year dwelt at some length upon the project for the organization of his army which, His Majesty said, had been approved by himself and his Ministers. His Majesty informed me that he intended to abolish altogether the "Dar Showra," or Council of War, to which he chiefly attributed the unfortunate results of the recent war. He was about, he added, to replace it by a Special Commission of Control, and, as he was anxious that Her Majesty's Government should be informed of his intentions in this respect, he would communicate to me, confidentially, the scheme which he had prepared. His Majesty then took from his portfolio a document, to which a number of seals, I believe those of his Ministers, were appended, and directed Munir Bey to dictate its contents in French to Sir A. Sandison. I have the honour to inclose a copy of what Sir Alfred wrote down in His Majesty's presence.

Your Lordship will perceive that this Commission is to act under the direct authority and supervision of His Majesty, who is termed the "Commander-in-chief of all the armies," and to report to him upon all military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Scheme for Reorganization of the Turkish Army.

UNE Commisson Appelée "Commission de Contrôle Général" a été instituée pour contrôler les réformes militaires et pour donner directement à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, qui est le Commandant-Général et absolu de toutes ses armées, des renseignements sur le degré de réformes auquel on serait arrivé.

2. Cette Commission sera composée de huit officiers de terre et de deux officiers de marine, et appelée "Commission de Contrôle Général." Les membres porteront des signes particuliers sur leurs uniformes, et fonctionneront directement sous les ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale.

3. Afin de pouvoir mieux contrôler toutes les branches de la nouvelle Administration militaire, la Commission aura le droit, pour se rendre compte de l'exécution de toutes les lois, règlements, et instructions, de réclamer tout document à toutes les branches et bureaux du Ministère de la Guerre.

4. La Commission aura le droit de soumettre à Sa Majesté Impériale ses observations sur les capacités des officiers généraux et sur les promotions en grade de tous les officiers généraux que le Ministère de la Guerre et les autres corps d'armée pourraient nommer.

5. Tous les membres de la Commission, conformément aux instructions qu'ils doivent recevoir de leur Président, se rendront tous les jours au Ministère de la Guerre, à Tophané, à la Marine Impériale, et aux Départements militaires, pour se rendre compte des affaires qui s'y traitent, et remettront un Rapport à leur Président et à la Commission réunie deux fois par semaine au plus au Palais Impérial, pour discuter le contenu de ce Rapport, et dresser un mazbata régulier que le Président remettra directement à Sa Majesté Impériale.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1159.)
Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

My Lord,

M. RADONITZ, the Montenegrin Minister, called upon me to-day to take his leave on his return to his own country. I asked him whether he had been recalled on account of the delay which had taken place on the part of the Porte in surrendering Gussinjé.

He replied that, after the many assurances that he had received from the Turkish Government that this district should be given up, none of which had been fulfilled, his position here had become such that the Prince could not do otherwise than direct him to go back to Cettinjé. He very much regretted, he said, that the earnest desire which the Prince, whom he might almost term a "Philo-Turk," had shown to establish the most friendly relations with Turkey had not been appreciated by the Porte, who might have found in Montenegro a valuable ally. All His Highness required on the part of the Porte was a loyal fulfilment of the engagements it had entered into at Berlin.

His Highness, on his part, had shown great consideration for Turkey, as he might, had he thought fit, have retained all the Turkish territory he had occupied during the war until Gussinjé was given over to him. M. Radonitz spoke with some bitterness of the manner in which he had been treated by the Porte, whom he accused of having wilfully thrown obstacles in the way of the settlement of the question of the surrender of Gussinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, January* 3, 1880.)

Sir, *Adrianople, December* 20, 1879.

I AM informed by the Governor-General that the draft of the Organic Statute has now been read through by the Local Commission of Reforms, and that many modifications have already been adopted by the Commission, but that, nevertheless, the draft will be read over a second time.

His Excellency hopes that the Commission will have concluded its labours by the 25th instant, when the draft of the proposed Statute will be sent back to Constantinople, modified in nearly half of the 400 Articles which it contains.

His Excellency has promised to furnish me in a few days with a list of the modifications proposed by the Local Commission, and he expresses the belief that, if they be adopted by the Porte, the Province of Adrianople will be provided with a most admirable Organic Law.

I am pleased to be able to state that, after my interview with Réouf Pasha, reported in my despatch of the 11th instant, his Excellency distributed to the members of the Commission copies of the draft of the proposed Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 26.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 406.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 21, 1879.

GENERAL PARENSOFF, the Bulgarian Minister of War, has addressed a letter to the "Maritza" explaining, in reply to some criticisms recently published in that journal, that he has been compelled to allow natives of this province to take their discharge from the Bulgarian forces in order to prevent further desertion and the infliction of punishments for that offence, the natives in question having as a rule refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Prince of Bulgaria, and to serve in a military capacity out of their own province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 27.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 407.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 21, 1879.

IT appears that during the recent visit of Aleko Pasha at Constantinople, his Excellency obtained the promise of decorations for the several Members of his Privy Council, and that about a fortnight after his return to Philippopoli he telegraphed to the Porte demanding the fulfilment of that promise.

The Sultan thereupon conferred the Order of the Osmanié, 2nd Class, on M. Crestovitch, the Medjidié of the 2nd Class on General Strecker, and the Medjidié of the 3rd Class on M. Vulcovitch, M. Schmidt, and M. Groueff.

The Governor-General himself has either been promised, or has actually obtained, at the hands of His Majesty the Sultan, the Broad Ribbon of the Osmanié.

Except in the case of General Strecker and M. Schmidt, these acts of Imperial favour can only be regarded as an approval and an encouragement of a policy directly, although covertly, opposed to the execution of the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Berlin, as regards the present administration, and the future political condition of this province, which the Sultan is apparently under present advice content to lose, regardless of His Majesty's engagements towards other signatories of the Treaty of Berlin.

This is all the more apparent from the fact that the lowest decoration has been bestowed on M. Schmidt, who has not only done his duty towards the Sultan with an unflinching and honourable zeal ever since he was named Director of Finance, but who has also earned the gratitude of most of the great Powers for the able and fearless manner in which he defended and organized the financial interests of this province before it was placed under the administration of Aleko Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 28.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 408.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article published on the 17th instant in the "Philippopolis" expressing the indignation of the Greek and Turkish members of the Provincial Assembly at the manner in which an interpellation made by Dr. Vlados, on the subject of the exclusive use of the Bulgarian language in Bills presented by the Government, has been treated by the Assembly and the Administration of Aleko Pasha.

In replying to that interpellation, Dr. Vulcovitch reproached Dr. Vlados with having ungratefully censured the Governor-General by whom he had been nominated to the Assembly, since drafts of laws were presented to the latter in the name of his Excellency, not in that of individual Directors or the Privy Council.

Both Dr. Vulcovitch and M. Grouëff maintained, amidst the applause of the Bulgarian Members of the Assembly, who refused to admit any debate on the question, that there was no paragraph in the Organic Statute which compelled the use of the three official languages in drafts of laws submitted to the Assembly.

Dr. Vlados subsequently waited upon the Governor-General with a deputation of Greek and Turkish Members, and urged the practical necessity of such drafts being presented in languages understood by non-Bulgarian Representatives, who would otherwise be precluded from the functions of legislation.

Aleko Pasha promised to give his best attention to the subject, and also informed one of the members of his Privy Council, who supported the representations of the Turks and Greeks, that he would immediately give orders for the preparation of drafts of laws in the three official languages.

Notwithstanding this assurance, only five Bills, relating to questions of finance, have as yet been presented to the Assembly in the form desired by the Greek and Turkish Deputies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 29.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 409.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 20, 1879.

VITALIS EFFENDI, who has been here for some time past, with Emner Effendi, for the purpose of organizing an Ottoman service of posts and telegraphs, returned to Constantinople the day before yesterday under orders from the Porte, and I have reason to believe that he has been recalled at the request of Aleko Pasha, to whom he was personally disagreeable as the brother of General Vitalis.

I have further reason to suspect that the Porte intends to abandon, if it has not already done so, the principle for which a majority of the European Commission contested with success, viz., the administration of the local posts and telegraphs by Imperial functionaries.

It is more than questionable whether the Porte has any right to surrender that principle merely on the insistance of Aleko Pasha, and those by whom he is specially advised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 30.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 410. Most Confidential.)

Philippopoli, December 20, 1879.

My Lord,

AT a meeting of the Privy Council held this morning, the Governor-General stated that he had passed a sleepless night, owing to the receipt of a telegraphic communication from the Porte, which he submitted to the Directors.

In that communication the Porte states that it had heard through the British Embassy that the Government of Eastern Roumelia had only disbursed a sum of £T. 1,200 for the relief of the Mussulman refugees, including a sum of £T. 800, appropriated for a distribution of seed.

Aleko Pasha asked his Council whether the latter statement was correct, and his Excellency was supported by most of the Members of the Council in an expression of astonishment that the British Embassy at Constantinople should be in possession of information on the subject of the disbursements made by the East Roumelian Government.

All eyes were turned on M. Schmidt, who was requested by the Governor-General to supply him with materials for an answer to the communication in question. General Streeker recommended, to the surprise and silent indignation of his countryman, that M. Schmidt should be called upon to attach his signature to the Report which the Governor-General had desired him to prepare.

I must explain that the sum quoted by the Porte represented the expenditure incurred, principally, in the conveyance of Turkish refugees to their villages, and that the £T. 800, as stated in my telegram of the 21st November, had been appropriated, not for seed, but as an indemnity to Turkish villages that had been more or less recently destroyed by Bulgarians.

The confusion which has then been made by the Porte in respect to the sum expended and appropriated at the date of my telegram above quoted will no doubt enable the Governor-General to show that the information derived from Her Majesty's Embassy is not accurate.

M. Schmidt is, like myself, also astonished that the Porte should have cited the British Embassy as its authority. M. Schmidt is naturally disposed to see in such indiscretion a further proof that the Government of the Sultan attaches no value to his exceptional loyalty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 31.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 411.)

Philippopoli, December 20, 1879.

My Lord,

THE inclosed article, published in the "Maritza" of the 16th instant, may be taken to represent the explanation which the Administration of Aleko Pasha is prepared to afford in respect to the condition to which the Turkish refugees in Eastern Roumelia have been reduced.

It exhibits a fear lest the Government and the "Bulgarian nation" should be blamed and discredited before Europe and the Sublime Porte for a state of things which, the article insinuates, is only the result of the neglect with which the warnings of the Governor-General have been treated by the Ottoman Government.

The present miseries of the refugees are due, it is alleged, to their having been sent back to the province in great numbers, and in complete destitution, regardless of His Excellency's warnings.

The "Maritza" does not think that the Government has as yet failed in its duty towards the refugees, and it states that the "Bulgarian nation" has known, and still knows, that it must tolerate their return, both in submission to the Treaty of Berlin, and out of respect and commiseration for the miseries of a class which has paid the penalty of a painful expiation.

For my own part, I am in a position to maintain that the Government has not only failed in its duty towards the Turkish population, which had an undeniable right to return to the province, and in masses, and in a state of destitution, in order to claim both the property which belonged to it, and the benefit of the security and rights with which it had been endowed by the Organic Statute, on an equality with other races, but that the Government has even by its negligence, and partly by its connivance, under the influence of a secret organization, been greatly instrumental in placing a large section of that population on the verge of death by cold and starvation, on which it at present stands.

As regards the attitude assumed by the Bulgarian masses of Eastern Roumelia towards their Mussulman brethren, the result of my observations exonerates them from any general plan of action from motives of vengeance or retaliation.

It is only too well established that the great mass of the Turkish refugees have no faults or crimes to expiate. The Mussulman and Christian populations had, even from the most moderate point of view, suffered alike from Ottoman misrule. With rare exceptions, the Turkish peasantry had no hand in the massacres which aroused the just indignation of Europe. It was, on the contrary, the Bulgarian peasantry who, as a rule, stained their hands in the blood of their Mussulman fellow citizens, in retaliation for crimes and atrocities committed by the agents and irregular forces of a common oppressor.

At the same time I should certainly not justify the Turkish refugees in harbouring or giving effect to feelings of vengeance for wrongs which, from the above point of view, they have unjustly suffered at the hands of their Bulgarian fellow citizens. Under the influence of panic, of terror, of grief at the loss of near relatives, and partly at the instigation of political agitators, crimes were at that time committed over which the veil of oblivion must necessarily be thrown.

Indeed, I do not believe that there exists at the present moment, except in very exceptional cases and principally among professional agitators, any feeling of animosity between the two races in respect to the mutual sufferings and sacrifices of the past. Under equal conditions of justice and security, both races are quite prepared to dwell together in the most perfect amity and concord.

The best possible proof of this statement is that the great majority of complaints made by the Mussulmans relate, not to deeds of violence on the part of armed Bulgarians, but to the non-restitution of their property and the non-fulfilment of the conditions on which their lands had been tilled during their absence by Christians.

I therefore attribute the lamentable conduct of the Bulgarian population towards the Mussulman refugees in respect to the non-restitution of houses, fields, and shares of crops, not to reprehensible motives of hatred and revenge, but to the facilities which have been afforded to that population by the Government, and chiefly by the local authorities, for ignoring or violating the law of *meum et tuum*.

Apart from the inherent tendency of the human race, special causes have strongly developed a spirit of aquisitiveness in the Bulgarian people. Their covetousness and parsimony are well-known faults of character for which a justification and an apology may be found in the system of government under which they have so long laboured. The ruin which has overwhelmed so many of the villages and towns would account still further for the desire which they manifest in a practical form to recover their past losses with the greatest possible expedition. After the conclusion of peace thousands of Bulgarians found themselves houseless, and perhaps penniless, and it is in reality only natural that they should have sought to retain as long as possible the possession of the Turkish houses in which they had been sheltered, and the usufruct of the rich lands which they had been induced to believe would remain theirs for ever, notwithstanding the terms on which the latter had been ostensibly ceded to them by the Russian administration of the province.

It was, however, clearly the duty of the Government which succeeded that Administration to adopt the strictest and most efficacious measures for the surrender of Turkish houses and lands to the owners who returned to claim them, and whose destitution was, to say the least, as good a claim on the sympathy of an impartial Government as the hardship connected with the surrender of houses, fields, and shares of produce on the part of a section of the Bulgarian population which had already derived considerable benefit from the usufruct of Turkish property.

An equitable and politically robust Government would have devised means during the months of summer for the housing of the owner and the past occupant of Mussulman property; it would have taken care that, notwithstanding the partial failure of the crops, the Turkish share of the latter should be surrendered at harvest

time, either in kind or money; it would, above all, have taken proper measures to prevent the wholesale destruction of Turkish villages in anticipation of a forced surrender, and the employment of their ruins in building up Bulgarian villages; it would have prevented the burning down of Turkish houses at Tatar-Bazardjik and elsewhere; and to close a still imperfect list of shortcomings, it would have more timely and more extensive arrangements for providing the refugees with seed even for the fields of which they had succeeded in obtaining restitution.

The Government of Aleko Pasha has failed under each head of its clear duty towards the Turkish refugees. It has practically left unheeded the hundreds of petitions that have been presented to it for months past by refugees, who necessarily felt that starvation awaited them unless they obtained a vindication of their proprietary rights.

Your Lordship is in possession of copies of a considerable number of those petitions. The supplicants brought them to me in the vain hope that my influence would prevail in the direction of saving them from certain destruction.

I have continually represented the matter to the Governor-General and the members of the Administration. The Director of Finance has alone been sincerely anxious to provide a remedy; but his efforts, like mine, have up to a recent date been fruitless.

It is only since I called upon the Exarch to summon a public meeting for the purpose of organizing a system of public relief, and since most of my colleagues combined in a strong representation to the Governor-General on the subject of an appeal which had been made to the Consular Body by the starving refugees in the neighbouring town of Tchirpan, that his Excellency took alarm at the prospect of a great disaster, and obtained from the Assembly a credit of £T. 10,000 for the more immediate relief of the suffering classes of Eastern Roumelia.

It was only last week that Aleko Pasha sent a Special Commissioner to the neighbouring district of Caradja Dagh, with powers to determine and settle the liabilities of Bulgarian tenants of Turkish property, in accordance with the scheme which I had presented to his Excellency on the 1st of November, and which I had urged him to apply simultaneously to the whole of the province.

In conclusion, I have no hesitation in affirming that if those liabilities had been settled and enforced at an earlier period, there would have been comparatively very little distress among the Turkish refugees at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 32.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 412. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 21, 1879.

GENERAL STRECKER informs me that he has been in communication with the leading members of the Assembly on the subject of an immediate reduction of the local militia to the numerical strength contemplated by the Organic Statute, viz., about 3,000 men, and that he has already officially requested the Governor-General to issue a Decree to that effect.

He states that the majority of the Assembly are anxious to obtain a curtailment of public expenditure by means of that reduction.

The General has also told me that he intends to get rid of as many of the Russian officiers as he possibly can, and he hopes the Porte had the same object in view when it requested Aleko Pasha a few days ago to transmit a list of the officers now serving in the local militia.

When I observed to General Strecker that shortly after his arrival at Philippopoli he had accepted three Russian officers sent from St. Petersburgh, in place of three officers on whose discharge he had insisted, his Excellency replied that he had been compelled to take that course in order to conciliate General Dukonin, but that he was now in a position to act independently of such influences.

Nothing has yet been done in the direction of transforming the members of the Gymnastic Societies into bans of the militia.

General Strecker is still waiting for the introduction of "Registres Matricules" in

conformity with Article 370 of the Statute, and has recently, for the fourth time, called the attention of the Secretary-General to the urgency of their introduction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 33.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 413.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 21, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 403 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from the local journals relating to the sufferings of the Turkish refugees and the appointment of a Relief Committee under the presidency of the Bulgarian Exarch.

The Rules which I had drawn up for the formation of a Society were not accepted by the meeting over which the Exarch presided on the 14th instant, on the ground that the proposed institution of a Committee for Mussulman refugees and another for non-Mussulman sufferers created a distinction between Mussulmans and Christians which it was desirable to avoid, the various races of the province having been welded by the Organic Statute into Eastern Roumelians.

The temporary Relief Committee appointed by the meeting was charged with the duty of preparing a new project, which will be presented to a general meeting to-morrow, and in which, under the influence of a foreign element, a still greater departure from the views of the Bulgarian majority has been made by proposing to give the Society the name of "Refugee Relief Committee."

Meanwhile the temporary Committee has been actively employed in visiting the refugees in this town, and in preparing statistics as a basis for further operations.

The total number of Turkish refugees at Philippopoli is over 6,000, and about one-half belong to villages in the neighbourhood.

Measures have at once been adopted for improving their habitations, providing for the sick, and for supplementing the rations of bread distributed by the Turkish Relief Commissioner.

A considerable proportion of the refugees have been in the receipt of only about 12 oz. of bread as their sole sustenance.

There is a general want of blankets and of warm clothes for women and children.

As no funds can properly be collected by a temporary Committee charged mainly with the organization of a Society, the Exarch applied to the Governor-General for a grant of £T. 500 out of the sum of £T. 10,000 voted by the Assembly for the relief of the distressed classes in Eastern Roumelia, but his Excellency refused to accede to that request for reasons which he gave in a letter of which I have the honour to transmit a copy.

In the opinion of several members of his Excellency's Council, as well as in that of the members of the temporary Relief Committee, the objections raised by his Excellency, without consulting his Council, have no real foundation.

I replied to that refusal by placing at the disposal of the Committee a sum of 200*l.* out of the charitable fund left in my hands by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, and the Representative of the Ottoman Bank offered a similar sum on behalf of the latter.

Her Majesty's Ambassador has kindly sent 500*l.* as a first contribution.

These funds will enable the Committee to open three or four soup kitchens at Philippopoli and to provide a certain quantity of clothes, blankets, and fuel, but the distress of the Turkish refugees is so great and so general throughout this province that a very large sum will be required, in addition to the sum of 10,000*l.* that will be granted by the Provincial Assembly, in order to save a considerable portion of the Turkish population of this province from death by cold and starvation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 33.

Monseigneur Josif to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

UNE Société vient de se fonder sous ma présidence provisoire dans notre ville, dans le but de venir en aide aux nécessiteux si nombreux de la province.

Cette Société s'occupe en ce moment de se constituer d'une manière définitive, et à élaborer son Statut, qui ne tardera pas a être soumis à l'approbation de votre Excellence.

En attendant, je crois pouvoir adresser déjà à votre Excellence la prière de vouloir bien accorder à notre Société une subside sur la somme votée par l'Assemblée Provinciale pour les réfugiés Musulmans.

Une somme d'environ £ T. 500 nous mettrait à même de commencer notre activité à l'instant même; car le résultat des mesures que nous prendrons pour recueillir des fonds se fera probablement attendre quelque temps.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JOSIF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 33.

Aleko Pasha to Monseigneur Josif.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ *Décembre*, 1879.

Monseigneur,

J'APPRENDS avec un véritable bonheur par la lettre que votre Béatitude a bien voulu m'adresser en date du $\frac{3}{15}$ Décembre courant, qu'une Société s'est formée sous sa présidence dans le but de venir en aide aux nécessiteux de la province, et je n'ai qu'à faire les vœux les plus ardents pour la réussite de cette œuvre humanitaire.

Quant à la proposition que votre Béatitude me fait d'assigner à la dite Société un subside de £ T. 500 à prendre sur la somme votée par l'Assemblée Provinciale pour les réfugiés Musulmans, j'ai le regret de lui dire qu'il est absolument impossible au Gouvernement d'accéder à cette demande, attendu que la dite somme votée lui a été accordée à l'unique fin de pouvoir décrétement subvenir aux demandes de secours de milliers de nécessiteux de toute sorte qui obsèdent journellement l'Administration dans toute la province, et aux besoins urgents auxquels il nous faut promptement faire force dans les limites du possible.

Au reste, votre Béatitude sera d'accord avec moi pour reconnaître que c'est justement parce que les moyens d'assistance dont dispose le Gouvernement sont insuffisants, qu'il a été jugé necessaire de former la susdite Société, dont le programme est de faire appel aux contributions volontaires des particuliers de la province et de l'étranger.

En renouvelant à votre Béatitude mon vif regret de ne pouvoir accéder à sa noble et philanthropique demande, j'ai l'honneur de lui exprimer l'assurance de ma plus respectueuse considération.

Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 34.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 414. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

IN order that your Lordship should understand the difficulties that are being encountered in the matter of forming a Refugee Relief Society in this province, I may mention on the strength of a confidential statement made to me by the Exarch, that the opposition of the Bulgarian party and of the Local Government (with the exception of its foreign members) proceeds from an apprehension lest my object in establishing such a Society is to procure evidence against the Government in respect to the manner in which the refugees have been dealt with.

It was owing to that opposition that the Exarch found himself unable to respond at once to the invitations which his Beatitude received from me, to the effect that he

should take the initiative in organizing a Society for the relief of the classes impoverished by the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 35.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No 415.)

Philippopoli, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the translation of a petition which has been presented to the Governor-General, by the representatives of twenty-seven villages in the name of the Mussulmans of Eastern Roumelia.

It represents the well-known grievances of the Turkish Refugees in respect to the non-delivery of their property, and of the shares of crops due to them by Bulgarian tenants; notwithstanding the many orders which have been issued for that purpose.

The petitioners represent that the object of the Bulgarian population is to reduce Mussulmans to extreme misery, to compel them to sell their lands at insignificant prices, and to force them to emigrate from the province.

They attribute the irregularities of which they complain to the bad conduct of the officials specially employed in executing the orders of the Governor-General, whom they pray to appoint Special Commissions for the purpose of settling in each village the liabilities of Bulgarian tenants towards Mussulman proprietors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Petition of the Mussulmans of East Roumelia to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

UN ordre émanant du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale autorise les réfugiés Musulmans de recevoir la moitié des récoltes comme indemnité pour la première et seconde année, soit sur celles qui ont été abandonnées, soit sur les récoltes indigènes Chrétiens, ainsi que la restitution immédiate et sans aucune difficulté de toutes les propriétés qui leur appartiennent, comme boutiques, magasins, &c.

Le même ordre interdit de labourer aucun terrain sans une autorisation préalable par son propriétaire, et que toute personne qui ne se conformerait pas à cet ordre n'aurait aucun droit sur le produit de pareils terrains, si ce n'est de réclamer la quantité de la semence qui leur serait restituée.

Bien que tout cela ait été communiqué à tous les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams des districts et villages, aucun de ces ordres n'a été exécuté jusqu'à ce jour, et par cela même les réfugiés meurent de faim et de froid.

Ces ordres ont été réitérés par les Mutessarifs, ainsi que la Commission des Réfugiés, et qu'il a été envoyé expressément des employés pour régler et mettre en ordre cette question. Cependant, le but sérieux de la population Bulgare est de ne rien donner aux réfugiés Musulmans, et par ce système, de les réduire à une grande misère et de leur faire vendre leur propriétés à des prix insignifiants, et ainsi les obliger de s'expatrier.

Nous sommes pleinement persuadés que cet état de choses non-seulement ne sera pas admis par votre Excellence, mais aussi cela ne peut qu'indiquer les personnes les moins impressionnables.

Nous pouvons dire que toutes ces irrégularités proviennent par suite de la mauvaise volonté des employés, qui ont été envoyés spécialement pour l'exécution des ordres de votre Excellence.

Pour remédier à tous ces malheurs, et à la mauvaise volonté des employés, et pour faire délivrer la moitié des récoltes qui leur reviennent, selon les registres des autorités de différents locales, prions votre Excellence d'envoyer à chaque district et village deux Commissions composées chacune de deux des membres, dont l'un Musulman et l'autre Chrétien, et de deux gendarmes.

En attendant la décision de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent les cachets des Moukhtars de 27 villages.)

Philippopoli, le 21 *Novembre*, 1879.

No. 36.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 2, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 2, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has telegraphed to Montenegro that he defers expressing any opinion on the Prince's memorandum till he is in possession of its full text.

His Excellency tells me that he would wish the Gussinjé question settled before he answers it, but he said at the same time that he cannot admit the right of the Prince to confiscate the property of individuals who are entitled to keep it in virtue of a Treaty to which all the Great Powers are parties.

He considers that any claim for indemnity is a question between Montenegro and the Porte that may be discussed between them hereafter, but the possession of their property being assured to the Mussulmans by European Treaty, the Prince is not entitled to disregard it.

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 3, 1880, 10·30 A.M.*

PORTE'S Proclamation to the inhabitants of Gussinjé, copy of which has been given to me, is in conformity with my telegram No. 797, with the addition that it promises to give seed and to facilitate cultivation of lands ceded to those who may emigrate, and to relieve them for some years from tithes or land tax.

No. 38.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, January 3, 1880, 7 P.M.*

RAILWAY Purchase Bill has been adopted by Senate this evening (twelve opponents abstaining) by thirty-eight votes against four, in conformity with the original agreement of Berlin bankers representing Company.

The Bill will have to return to Chamber after adjournment for holidays, or in about three weeks.

No. 39.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 4.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philibé, January 4, 1880.*

PROVINCIAL Assembly closed to-day by Governor-General, who expressed intention of convoking Extraordinary Session for consideration of Budget, which is to be operative from the 13th March.

Finance Director has resigned.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 40.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 5, 1880.)

(No. 234.) *Sophia, December 22, 1879.*

My Lord,

SINCE my arrival, as I have had occasion to speak with several of the leading members of what remains of the Mussulman element in this city, I have endeavoured to discover what are their feelings towards the Prince and their Bulgarian fellow-citizens.

As far as the Prince himself is concerned, their testimony is unanimous in his favour; they all agree that their petitions, when presented at the Palace, always receive His Highness' personal attention, and that he does all in his power to fulfil his promises that his Mussulman subjects should enjoy good and just government and perfect equality.

Unfortunately, when their complaints are transferred from the Palace to the Tribunals they do not find the same alacrity; on the contrary, obstacles and much unnecessary delay are placed in the way of recovering their property. Much of the hardship and injustice complained of by the Mussulmans is the result of the arbitrary confiscation by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff during his administration of all Mussulman property abandoned by its owners.

Many Mussulman houses were destroyed, and the sites were seized by the Municipality. These have been sold to Bulgarians, who, having in many cases made *bond fide* purchases, and spent money in constructing houses, refuse now to give them up to their lawful owners, and say that it is not they, but the Municipality, which is responsible.

I may mention an instance in which I have endeavoured, so far in vain, to obtain justice, as the proprietors have named an English subject, Mr. John Falanga, their representative.

Two houses and a shop were seized and let by the authorities, and a piece of land sold to a Bulgarian for 480*l.* For more than a month Mr. Falanga has been in vain endeavouring to obtain possession of this property, or at least an explanation of the reason of its detention.

Meanwhile, other parties are ready to give him 1,000*l.* for the same property.

This is not an isolated case; there are here more than one hundred Turkish proprietors, who, leaving their families in Constantinople, have been here for more than six months in vain trying to recover their property.

In contradistinction to the dilatoriness shown by the Bulgarian Tribunals, I may cite a case which was in the competence of the Prince to decide himself.

Shortly after my arrival a Mussulman named Hafiz Redif, owning extensive farms near Radomir and Dubnitza, came to me from Prisrend, where he stated he had been staying since the war, not daring to return home, as he feared molestation from the Bulgarian authorities. He begged me to ask the Prince for a letter instructing them to afford him protection, as he had in vain applied for it to the Ministers, who had put him off from day to day. I told him that I could not interfere officially on his behalf, but that if he applied personally at the Palace he would probably obtain what he wished. In the meantime I spoke privately to the head of the Prince's chancellerie, and the man received his letter the next day. From all that I hear, I gather that the one desire of the Mussulmans is to sell all that they have and leave the country, not caring to remain as inferiors where once they ruled. This is much to be regretted; for, whatever qualities the future generations of Bulgarians may develop, at the present moment, to quote the words of one of the ex-Ministers to me, two-thirds of the nation are ignorant peasants without any initiative, and the remainder persons who have been educated abroad, and are, many of them, imbued with Nihilistic ideas.

At the present moment there are here many persons anxious to employ their capital in industrial enterprises which would develop the resources of the country, but they all say that they meet with even more jealousy of foreigners, and more obstacles in the way of obtaining concessions than exists in Turkey.

As far as actual ill-treatment and personal violence, such as is still reported from some districts of Eastern Roumelia, I have heard no complaints from Mussulmans.

Of the numerous mosques, only one is open for divine service; the others are used as store-houses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 41.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 5.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 4, 1880, 10·50 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he has received fresh instructions from his Government to press for the immediate surrender of Gussinjé, and has asked

me to support him in his demand. I have told him that I have been pressing it upon the Porte, and shall continue to do so.

He states that 500 loads of ammunition and provisions have been recently sent, according to Montenegrin Government, from Scutari to Gussinjé. Austrian Chargé d'Affaires tells me that the act of surrender of the district, which is drawn up, and was to have been sent two days ago to the Turkish Commissioner, has been, for some reason, kept back.

No. 42.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 5.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, January 4, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

REFER to my telegram of 2nd instant. Greek Commissioners have informed their Turkish colleagues that they have applied to Athens for instructions, as there is no use wasting any more time.

Instructions will be sent in a day or two to Constantinople.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 43.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 5, 1880, 2 P.M.*

SIR HENRY LAYARD inquires whether Mr. Charles St. John should keep up the establishment at Prisrend. I have said that he need not do so unless Ambassador sees reason to the contrary.

You might mention this to the Austrian Government, at whose desire he was sent.

No. 44.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 5, 1880, 4·15 P.M.*

YOURS 802.

I think Mr. Charles St. John might now break up the Consular establishment at Prisrend, unless you see any urgent reason for his return there.

No. 45.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 11.) *Foreign Office, January 5, 1880.*

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 804 of the 29th ultimo, I informed you to-day, by telegraph, that unless your Excellency saw any urgent reason for the return of Mr. Charles St. John to Prisrend, I had no objection to his now breaking up the Consular Establishment at that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 46.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, January 6.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Janvier, 1880.*

LA Sublime Porte, désireuse de mettre fin le plus tôt possible à la question de Goussinjé Plava, vient d'adresser aux habitants de ces districts une nouvelle proclamation dont vous trouverez le texte ci-après. En agissant dans le même but, la Sublime Porte vient d'ordonner au Commissaire Impérial, son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pacha, et au Gouvernement Général du Vilayet de Scutari, d'envoyer sur la frontière un officier supérieur chargé de se mettre en rapport avec le Commissaire que la Principauté Monténégrine désignerait, afin de procéder à la signature et à l'échange du double acte de cession dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre également les textes ci-après :—

Proclamation aux Habitants de Goussinjé et de Plava.

"La Sublime Porte, confirmant ses précédentes déclarations, porte de nouveau à votre connaissance qu'en vertu des stipulations formelles du Traité de Berlin le territoire des districts de Goussinjé et de Plava a cessé de faire partie des Etats de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et appartient à la Principauté du Monténégro; qu'en conséquence toute résistance à l'admission sur ce territoire des autorités civiles et militaires du Monténégro serait illégale et vous exposerait, vous et vos familles, à des maux que le Gouvernement Impérial avait cherché à vous éviter, mais auxquels il n'aura plus droit de vous soustraire.

"Pour la dernière fois la Sublime Porte vous adjure de vous soumettre et de profiter des mesures paternelles qui ont été prises pour assurer le sort de ceux d'entre vous qui, cessant toute résistance, voudraient abandonner le territoire cédé aux Monténégrins. Ces mesures consistent à mettre à votre disposition des moyens de transport suffisants pour faciliter votre émigration, et à vous offrir, dans les Vilayets de Monastir, de Kossovo et de Scutari, et dans le Sandjak de Bérat, des terres cultivables qui vous seront remises gratuitement et en toute propriété. Le Gouvernement Impérial vous promet, en outre, de vous venir en aide en vous fournissant gratuitement les semences pour vos champs et en facilitant votre première installation agricole. Enfin, vous serez exonérés, pendant quelques années, de toute dime ou impôt foncier. Si vous restez sourds à ces conseils de sagesse et de prudence, la Sublime Porte se verra dans l'impérieuse nécessité de vous abandonner entièrement et de cesser tout effort pour améliorer votre sort. Vous n'aurez alors à vous en prendre qu'à vous mêmes des rigueurs auxquelles vous serez exposés et des maux qui viendraient à vous atteindre."

Actes de Cession.

"Le Soussigné, Délégué *ad hoc* du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, déclare par le présent Acte transférer au Gouvernement Princier du Monténégro, représenté par , le territoire des districts de Goussinjé Plava, conformément aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin; à quelle fin les autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes se sont retirées du dit territoire.

"En foi de quoi le Soussigné a signé et délivré le présent Acte au Délégué du Gouvernement Princier à toutes fins de droit."

"Le Soussigné, Délégué *ad hoc* du Gouvernement Princier du Monténégro, déclare par le présent Acte transférer au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, représenté par , le territoire de Koutchikrania, conformément aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin; à quelle fin les autorités civiles et militaires Monténégrins se sont retirées du dit territoire.

"En foi de quoi le Soussigné a signé et délivré le présent Acte au Délégué du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman à toutes fins de droit."

Vous êtes prié de communiquer ces pièces au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 6.*)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 5, 1880, 9·10 P.M.*

SULTAN'S favourite sister having died yesterday, I ventured to send to-day to express to His Majesty the condolence and sympathy of the Queen. His Majesty thanked me warmly, and said that he deeply valued them.

No. 48.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 6, 3·20 P.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 6, 1880, 2·45 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 6.

Mr. Charles St. John is of opinion that, as the relations he has established with influential persons in North Albania have been productive of so much good to the Christians, and events of so much importance are likely to occur in that province, it is desirable that he should return to Prisrend. What does your Lordship think? He proposes to start for Bosna-Seraï on Friday next.

No. 49.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 6.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 6, 1880.*

A VIENNA newspaper has published the Sultan's Proclamation to the inhabitants of Gussinjé, and the declaration of cesssion to be signed by the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs considers the first unobjectionable, but regards the other as inadmissible, owing to a simultaneous cession of Kutchi Kraina being introduced into it.

He says that the negotiations have been exclusively confined to the former district, the boundaries of the latter not having been finally laid down, and that this attempt to connect the two questions by making the cessions simultaneous will again throw everything back.

I observed that the Gussinjé frontier had not been defined any more than the other, and that the Treaty rights of the two parties were in each case the same.

He replied that in the one case there was no doubt or dispute regarding the frontier, but in the other, though the Treaty assigned the district to Turkey, it was still necessary to ascertain its limits, and that the matter could not be ripe for decision till this was done.

No. 50.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 7, 1880.)

(No. 83. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, December 19, 1879.*

IN my last despatch to your Lordship I had the honour to report that the gendarmes of the Sandjak of Sphakia had deserted in consequence of their pay being long in arrears. I am happy to say that they have now returned to their duty, a portion of their wages having been paid them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 51.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 7, 1880.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, December 22, 1879.*

A DISPUTE between Christians and Mussulmans, which has fortunately had no serious consequences, took place on the 18th instant at the town of Candia. That day being sacred to St. Nicholas, a religious service was celebrated in the Greek Church, and a procession afterwards marched through the streets preceded by a banner with the figure of the Saint woven on it. On a concerted signal a number of Mussulman youth rushed out to sieze the flag, which, however, the Christians succeeded in retaining

possession of. The police having arrested and lodged in prison a number of the ringleaders of the disturbance, tranquillity was quickly re-established.

It would appear that while it has been usual in this town for the Christians to carry banners at religious ceremonies, the custom has not obtained at Candia. When it became known that the Christians of that town were going to display a flag on St. Nicholas' day the Mussulmans expressed their intention of preventing it, whereupon the former desired the Vali to inform them whether any Statute existed forbidding the use of a banner for the purpose intended. His Excellency thus appealed to, counselled them to substitute for the colours blue and white, which were suggestive of Hellenic sympathies, the national Turkish colours of red and white. This recommendation was acted upon with the result stated.

Photiades Pasha intended proceeding to Candia himself, but has been detained by a storm which has been raging for the last three days. He informed me that he purposes punishing with the utmost rigour of the law those guilty of inciting the disturbance, men who are fanatically opposed to the extended privileges granted to the Christians.

I may add that the Mussulmans are in the habit of carrying banners at religious ceremonies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 52.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 7, 1880.)

(No. 83. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, December 31, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of four despatches, and their inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, relative to matters of interest in my Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December 29, 1879.*

THIS morning I sent to your Excellency a telegram to the following effect:—

Recent private intelligence received here from Prisrend announces that Moukhtar Pasha is still at that place, and that the majority of the Albanian Chiefs will not abandon their intention of resisting the transfer of Gussinjé to Montenegro.

The above information, derived from Turkish sources, is confirmed by recent reports which have reached some of my foreign colleagues from their subordinates at Prisrend.

Moukhtar Pasha has concentrated at Prisrend a force of about fifteen battalions and two batteries of artillery, but persons who have recently visited North Albania, and had opportunities of forming an estimate of the temper and resources of its inhabitants, do not consider that force sufficient to insure a peaceable transfer of the territory in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December 30, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 12th instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that some further change has been made in the personnel of the Special Local Commission for the Organic Statute of the Turkish provinces.

The inclosed is a nominal list of the members of this Commission as definitely organized and modified by the Governor-General and his Administrative Council.

The Commission has already held five sittings, during which it examined, discussed, and modified 48 out of 445 Articles included in the Statute, and I have been assured that most of the Turkish and Christian members have agreed to amend the Articles defining the powers and responsibility of the Governor-General, and that they are acting earnestly and cordially together in modifying the Statute so as to adapt it to local requirements. Their labours are also conducted with order and regularity; minutes of the proceedings at each sitting are protocoled and signed by all the members, and the approval or modification of each Article of the Statute, and any disputed points relative thereto, are adopted and settled by a majority of the members.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

NOMINAL List of Members of the Special Commission organized at Salonica for Organic Statute of Turkish Provinces.

Turks.

Ibrahim Bey, *President.*
Arif Bey, *Vice-President.*
Abdi Effendi, 1*st Secretary.*
Enis Effendi, 2*nd Secretary.*
Salih Bey.
Hamdi Bey.
Ali Effendi.
Aguiah Effendi.
Husni Bey.
Aguiah Bey (of Drama).

Christians.

Costantinidi Pasha.
Greek Archbishop.
Athanassi Bladi.
Mihalaki Bey.
Iterio Joannidi.
Stephan Dati.
Christaki Xanthidi.
Vassilaki Pappazoglou.

Jews.

Samuel Effendi.
Bohor Saltiel.

10 Turkish, 8 Christian, and 2 Jewish members.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a petition in Turkish, accompanied with its translation, which I have received from some of the principal Mussulman refugees in Macedonia, referring to their sufferings, and asking for the interference of Her Majesty's Government to protect them from being deprived of their properties in Bulgaria and in the districts ceded to Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 52.

Mussulman Refugees in Macedonia to Consul-General Blunt.

(Traduction.)
M. le Consul d'Angleterre à Salonique.

AU nom de tous les émigrés, habitants des villes et villages restés dans le Vilayet de la Roumélie Orientale, en Bulgarie, et en Serbie, et réunis dans le Vilayet de Salonique, nous vous exposons comme suit notre position. Dans une clause particulière du Traité signé dans le Congrès de Berlin, dans les limites du droit international, il est stipulé que les habitants qui auraient émigré des susdites localités pourraient posséder leurs droits légitimes sur les biens, les immeubles, et les terres. Cependant,

comme il nous a été impossible depuis trois ans d'obtenir nos droits, nous sommes tous réduits à un état vraiment déplorable. Ce qui a fait jusqu'à présent attendre et espérer ces émigrés opprimés, c'est le devoir que les Grandes Puissances Européennes ont pour préserver l'honneur de la signature qu'elles ont apposée au dit Traité, ainsi que l'intérêt pour sauvegarder au nom de l'humanité les droits de ces émigrés opprimés, qui ont eu des malheurs sans exemples dans le monde.

Malheureusement notre triste situation, qui est arrivée à un point qu'on ne peut pas décrire, ne nous donne plus le temps d'attendre. Comme vous êtes à Salonique le Consul d'une Puissance qui a accepté le susdit Congrès et a apposé sa signature au Traité, laquelle (signature) nous considérons honorable, nous prenons la liberté de recourir à votre généreuse intervention pour vous supplier de vouloir bien communiquer à M. l'Ambassadeur de votre Gouvernement l'oppression et l'injustice qu'on nous fait.

Nous avons, &c.
Signé ou scellé par MUSTAPHA AGHA, *de Nish,*
(Et autres.)

Novembre 1295.

Inclosure 6 in No. 52.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extract of a recent letter from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, reporting an improvement in the state of affairs in that district.

Your Excellency will also be glad to learn that there has been a sensible decrease of brigandage in Thessaly and Macedonia during the present month; and that the proceedings of the Military Court-martial sitting at Salonica are now conducted in a more careful and lenient manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 52.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.) *Cavalla, le* 21 *Décembre,* 1879.

L'ABSENCE absolue des nouvelles dans le Sandjac de Drama est la véritable cause de mon silence.

Les Bulgares ont mis un terme à leurs exploits; et en general les affaires du Sandjac marchent d'un train régulier. La santé publique est bonne.

No. 53.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, January* 6, 1880.

BETWEEN 2 and 3 this morning a Greek Church belonging to Patriarchate was seized by a Bulgarian mob and militiamen. A Bulgarian priest proceeded to perform service. The Greek priest was prevented by gendarmes from leaving his house, and the Greek Treasurer was ejected from churchyard by gendarmes; he was twice struck with the flat part of a bayonet by one of the latter. The soldiers alleged that Bulgarian Metropolitan Panaretos had ordered them to effect seizure. The keys were subsequently taken to Aleko Pasha, and a guard placed over the church. The Governor-General has just told a Greek deputation that he is afraid of populace, and would not surrender keys. He says inquiry will be instituted. Great excitement. Streets patrolled.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 54.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 7, 3:30 P.M.*)

(No. 12. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January 7, 1880, 1 P.M.*

CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT has seen a confidential letter from Moukhtar Pasha, stating that the Albanians of Ipek, Jacova, and Gussinjé will not follow his advice, and are determined to resist occupation of latter district by Montenegrins.

(Sent to Scutari.)

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 7, 4:30 P.M.*)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 7, 1880, 1 P.M.*

I SUGGESTED to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that instead of objecting altogether to the mention of Kutchi-Kraina in the Act of Cession of Gussinjé, he might propose that the phrase should run so as to make it an engagement on the part of Montenegro to give up the district as soon as its limits were decided.

He said that such a proposal would require endless negotiation before the Montenegrins, who are full of tricks, could be got to sign the engagement.

He admitted, however, unreservedly, that the Porte was entitled to assert its right to be put in possession of Kutchi-Kraina, and he intended to telegraph to Constantinople, urging it to withdraw the clause in the Act of Cession which refers to the district in question, but saying that he sees no objection to the introduction of a clause reserving the Sultan's right to it. This could be done without negotiation with Montenegro, and his Excellency gave me to understand more clearly than I had expected that he would support the claim of the Porte when the time came for discussion.

No. 56.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 7, 5:15 P.M.*)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic) *St. Petersburgh, January 7, 1880, 3:15 P.M.*

TURKISH Ambassador says that one day, whilst talking over the Gussinjé difficulty, M. de Giers casually hinted at compensation elsewhere, but begged him not to forward the suggestion to Constantinople, as the Russian Government had not yet really considered the idea; but he says that there was no question touching Novi-Bazar.

I do not think that there was at any time a serious project.

No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 8, 1880.*)

(No. 82. Political.)
Salonica, December 22, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard; the first relative to the pay of the provincial police; and the second to monthly Returns, required by the Porte, of crimes and offences committed in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, and Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December 16, 1879.*

THE Governor-General of Salonica has received a Circular Order from the Porte, strictly enjoining the provincial authorities to provide for the regular pay of the police, and directing that the latter should have precedence in pay over all other branches of the Administration.

This is a most timely measure, and will, it is to be hoped, be faithfully carried out, as much of the insubordination of the police in this and other provinces in my Consular district, is caused by the inefficiency and irregular manner in which that service is paid. The police on duty in this town have not been paid for the last six months, while those in some districts in the interior are worse off.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, December 22, 1879.*

THE Minister of the Interior has ordered the Kaimakams, (Sub-Governors) in the Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, and Monastir, to forward to him at the expiration of every month, Returns of all crimes and misdemeanors committed during the month in their respective districts, warning them that in the event of their sending in these Returns in an incomplete or inaccurate form, they would be visited with the displeasure of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 58.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 8, 1880.*)

(No. 418.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 23, 1879.*

IT is evident from the inclosed article published this day in the "Maritza," the mouthpiece of the Local Government, that Aleko Pasha encourages a belief in his having received from the Sultan both the Order of the Osmanié and a "kind and sympathetic reception."

If such has really been the case, the "Maritza" may well express satisfaction at the triumph of "national aspirations," and the escape of the "Bulgarian cause" from shipwreck.

The article further refers to the bestowal of decorations on the several Directors as evidence of the satisfaction with which the Sublime Porte has viewed the policy pursued in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 59.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 8, 1880.*)

(No. 419.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 23, 1879.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this date No. 111, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, an extract from the "Maritza," which gives the names of the Deputies who have been elected Members of the Permanent Committee of the Assembly under Articles 10 and 103 of the Organic Statute.

All the ten titular members are of the Bulgarian race and prominence in the "National Party," the provisions of the Statute having failed to secure the representation of any minority, except among the substitutes, of whom one is a Dervish of facile character, and the other an Armenian, who represents a colony which is in close alliance with the Bulgarian element of the population.

The election of the two latter will not practically alter the Bulgarian character of the Permanent Committee, as the titular members will no doubt elect to be represented during their absence by the Bulgarian substitute, Mr. Péeff.

The Bulgarian Radical organ observes, with respect to these elections, that the Assembly has thus shown that the province is unmistakably Bulgarian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Extract from the "Maritza," of December 23, 1879.

ENFIN, dans la séance d'hier, Lundi, l'Assemblée a procédé à l'élection de son Comité Permanent, qui consiste de dix membres titulaires et trois suppléants. Nos lecteurs savent que la Commission Européenne, pour assurer l'élection de quelques membres des minorités, a stipulé qu'aucun votant ne pût écrire sur son bulletin plus de six noms pour les membres titulaires, et plus de deux pour les membres suppléants. Mais la majorité Bulgare est si écrasante que tous les membres titulaires sont Bulgares. Ont été élus membres titulaires: MM. Karapiroff (Bulgare Catholique), J. E. Gucchoff, Dr. Stambolsky, Dr. Yancoloff, Dr. Stránski, Velitchkoff, Salabachoff, le Rev. G. Tileff, Vodentcharoff, et Madjaroff. Membres suppléants: Cheikh Effendi, Péeff, et Hintlian.

No. 60.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 420.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 27, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 413 of the 21st instant, I have the satisfaction of reporting to your Lordship that at a public meeting held on the 22nd instant, under the presidency of the Bulgarian Exarch, a "Society for the Relief of Refugees in Eastern Roumelia" was finally organized under the Rules of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

The President has requested the Governor-General to legalise the existence of the Society by confirming those Rules.

Meanwhile the Central Committee has opened three soup kitchens at which about 1,500 rations of soup and bread are daily issued gratuitously.

Many houses have been rendered habitable; stoves have been put up in granaries and other buildings, and a small hospital has this day been opened.

Many refugee women are employed in making coverlets and warm jackets, which are being gradually distributed.

M. Langlais, the French Consul, has been elected Secretary of the Central Committee.

Yesterday the Committee received a petition from the Turkish Representatives of four neighbouring districts, appealing for immediate relief, their many previous appeals to the authorities having produced no result, and death by starvation being the fate which awaited them unless their cries for aid were at once listened to.

The funds of the Committee being barely adequate to provide for the present wants of the refugees at Philippopoli, whose relief the Committee has more immediately undertaken, the Exarch was asked to lay the petition in question before the Governor-General, and to ascertain what measures had been taken by his Excellency to relieve the petitioners.

I laid before the Committee another prayer for relief which I had received from M. Tonjoroff, the Bulgarian Protestant pastor in this town.

He had just returned from Kezanlik, where he had seen encamped, in canvas

tents, in the outskirts of the town, 100 Mussulman refugees, from Seolievo in Bulgaria. They had been refused admission into the Principality, and had been forced to recross the Schipka under such terrible conditions, owing to the severity of the weather and the depth of the snow, that several of them died before they reached Kezanlik.

M. Tonjoroff describes them as being now reduced to the "condition of wild beasts;" their famished looks, their cries and supplications, and the scantiness of their apparel and shelter amidst snow and frost, were so appalling, that he left the encampment as quickly as he could, and returned in all haste to Philippopoli with an account of the sufferings he had witnessed.

The Baili of Kezanlik, whom M. Tonjoroff described as a very worthy man, stated that he had helped the sufferers to the extent of his scanty means, which were, however nearly exhausted.

In these circumstances the Committee authorized me to spend at once £25 in providing these miserable wretches with fifty sheepskins (which are available on the spot at 3 fr. a-piece), and with the bread which they so urgently require.

I therefore made arrangements to that effect by telegraph, and at the same time communicated with Mr. Ashburnham, asking him to inquire into the reason of these refugees being forbidden to return to their homes in the Principality.

Mr. Ashburnham has informed me in reply that the Bulgarian Government had been obliged, early in November, to prohibit immigration, the Porte having failed to supply a statement of the number and destination of the refugees who desired to return to the Principality, a statement which the Government of the latter had demanded in August last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 61.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 421.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 28, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Governor-General and myself in respect to the sufferings of the Mussulman refugees at Bourgas.

The Central Refugee Committee, recently established, and to which Mr. Consul Brophy made an appeal by telegraph, has been unable to afford any aid to those sufferers.

It appears, however, from the letter addressed to me by Aleko Pasha, that the authorities of Bourgas had already been ordered to "increase their efforts for the improvement of the condition of the unfortunate immigrants" and that fresh resources had been placed at their disposal for that purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le 22 Décembre, 1879.*

J'AI reçu hier du Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Bourgas le télégramme suivant:—

"Votre Comité peut-il aider les 600 malheureux réfugiés qui meurent ici de faim et de froid. Autorité locale manque de ressources pour les secourir."

L'organisation du Comité auquel le Consul fait appel n'ayant pas encore été achevée et les ressources dont il dispose étant pour le moment très-insignifiant, même pour faire face aux besoins les plus urgents des malheureux dans cette ville, je me vois contraint de répondre à Mr. Brophy que pour le moment le Comité à son profond regret ne peut rien faire pour les 600 réfugiés à Bourgas mourant de faim et de froid.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

M. le Consul-Général, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{11}{23}$ *Décembre*, 1879.

J'AI reçu votre lettre en date du 22 Décembre courant, relative aux réfugiés de Bourgas, et je m'empresse de vous remercier encore une fois de l'intérêt bienveillant que vous portez aux nécessiteux de cette province, et des soins constants que vous prenez à appeler l'attention du Gouvernement sur leur état.

J'ai télégraphié immédiatement au *locum tenens* du Préfet à Bourgas, lui demandant renseignements précis sur la triste situation qui vous est révélée par M. le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique à Bourgas, et j'ai eu la satisfaction de recevoir en réponse la dépêche rassurante dont je m'impresse de vous transmettre ci-inclus une copie.

Au demeurant l'ordre avait été déjà donné aux autorités de Bourgas de redoubler d'efforts en vue d'améliorer le sort des malheureux immigrants et de nouvelles ressources avaient été mises à cet effet à leur disposition.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général,
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

Télégramme du Préfet de Bourgas *ad interim* :—

"En réponse à votre dépêche No. 1445 je vous fais part qu'il y a en effet ici des réfugiés dans un état peu enviable, mais qui sont installés dans des maisons et des greniers. Les nécessiteux reçoivent journellement du biscuit. Profitant des chariots qui transportent les dîmes, j'envoie les mouhadjirs dans leurs foyers, où le manque de moyens. Je persuade à cet effet les Chrétiens et envoie chaque jour autant de mouhadjirs que possible. Beaucoup de bœufs des paysans ont succombé sous la fatigue, par suite de ce transport gratuit incessant. Il y a ici maintenant 435 réfugiés que j'enverrai dans leurs villages aussitôt le beau temps rétabli. Le biscuit s'épuise, et il aura manque absolu de moyens pour l'avenir; mais nombre de mouhadjirs a aussi diminué.

No. 62.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 122. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 28, 1879.

M. SCHMIDT, the Director of Finance, has informed me confidentially that he is on the point of resigning office, as he feels that he ought not to bear any longer the moral responsibility which attaches to the performance of his duties under a weak and incapable Governor-General, and as member of a Government which persistently pursues a course diametrically opposed to the spirit and the letter of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

The adoption of this resolve has been accelerated by the attitude which the Provincial Assembly has assumed towards the Local Government, and towards the Department of Finance in particular, as well as by apprehensions derived from the composition of the Permanent Committee of the Provincial Assembly, the future activity of which will, beyond all doubt, render still more difficult, if not altogether abortive, any individual attempt to oppose the infraction or circumvention of the Treaty of Berlin in Eastern Roumelia.

The Provincial Assembly has made the administration of the finances of the province the special and principal object of its inquiries, to the extent even of examining some of the subordinates of M. Schmidt before the Budget Committee; it has attacked him on many matters of detail, and has prepared a Report on the Budget which almost amounts to a new scheme for the management of the revenue and expenditure of the province; one of the most apparent objects in view being the expulsion of aliens from service in the Finance Department, and ultimately the replacement of M. Schmidt by M. T. S. Guechoff, or some other Bulgarian patriot. At its last sitting a resolution, moved by the President, was declared to be adopted, after an informal show of hands, to the effect that the revenues of the province should in

future be deposited in the hands of provincial Treasurers, not in those of the Ottoman Bank, according to the practice introduced with great success by M. Schmidt, under the auspices of the European Commission.

The object of that resolution is simply to remove the money deposits of the province into hands which will not surrender them to the Porte, or allow them to be attached or transferred, in the event of political complications of a local disturbance, or of any dispute in respect to the payment of the annual tribute.

M. Schmidt declared at once, at the Assembly, that so long as he was responsible for the management of the finances, he would demand full liberty to deposit the funds of the province wherever he thought most safe and advantageous.

The Vice-President proposed, in view of the gravity of this declaration, that it should be placed on the orders of the day for discussion at the next sitting, a course to which M. Schmidt readily assented.

At a subsequent meeting of the Privy Council, it was proposed that the resolutions in question should be considered as a vote of want of confidence towards the Directors as a body, with the exception of General Strecker, who fills a special office directly conferred upon him by the Sultan.

Some of the Directors having refused to join in such an attitude towards the Provincial Assembly, M. Schmidt insisted that he could only accept the result of a discussion on the subject of his declaration as a question of confidence or no confidence in his administration of the Finance Department.

The Governor-General endeavoured to dissuade M. Schmidt from accepting such an interpretation of the result of the impending debate, but as M. Schmidt remained firm, his Excellency sent for the President, and other leading members of the Assembly, and exhorted them to comply with the demand of the Director of Finance, more especially as, in the event of his resignation, no Bulgarian would be appointed in his place.

The Russian Acting Consul-General assembled the same Deputies at his residence, and spoke to them in similar terms, the result being that at the sitting of the Assembly next day, the order of the day relating to M. Schmidt's declaration was passed over and deferred.

M. Schmidt assured me, however, that he will in any case carry out his resolution of resigning, and that he is only deliberating whether he shall give a vague pretext, or state openly the reasons which have compelled him to take such a step.

I have taken upon myself to assure M. Schmidt that all the Powers determined to uphold the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin would view his resignation with much regret and with deep concern, for the loyalty of his conduct and the zeal and ability which he has displayed in organizing and administering the finances of the province are thoroughly recognized and appreciated.

I also assumed the responsibility of urging, as a reason for his continuance in office, that the Porte and other Powers would not allow Aleko Pasha to continue much longer his present course of defiance and ill-government; but I regret to state that I found M. Schmidt impressed with the impotence and suspicious apathy of the Porte, and with the unwillingness or unreadiness of other Powers to insist upon the strict observance of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute in this province, a state of things against which, in his decided opinion, it was useless for him to contend any longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 63.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 28, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an extract from the "Philippopolis" giving a summary of the proceedings of the Provincial Assembly on the 20th, 22nd, and 23rd instant.

The proceedings at the sitting of the 22nd instant are of more especial interest, as they include a debate on the subject of the salaries hitherto given to the Directors and the Prefects of departments. Notwithstanding the vigorous opposition of the Government, the salary of the Secretary-General has been reduced from £ T. 125 to

£ T. 100 per month, and the salaries of the Directors, excepting General Strecker's and M. Schmidt's, from £ T. 100 to £ T. 50 per month.

General Strecker is to continue to receive the pay of a General Officer in the Ottoman service, while in the case of M. Schmidt, the Assembly has stipulated that the amount of his salary shall be arranged by special contract.

The salaries of the Prefects have been reduced from £ T. 50 to £ T. 70, to £ T. 35 to £ T. 40 per month.

As a compromise, the Governor-General has requested the Assembly to place a sum of £ T. 5,000 to £ T. 6,000 per annum at his disposal, in order to supplement the amount of such salaries as may prove to be entirely inadequate; his Excellency engaging to make such additions known to the Permanent Committee, without, however, admitting the interference of the latter in his arrangements to that effect.

The Government has been in warm and serious conflict with the Chamber on the subject of those reductions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 64.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 424.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 28, 1879.*

THE Provincial Assembly has adopted, with slight modification, a law which was submitted to it by the Local Government, "for the prosecution of crimes committed before and during the war."

Under the 1st Article of that law, misdemeanours, robberies, thefts, and other crimes committed before the 19th April, 1876, if not covered by legal limitations, are still to be prosecuted, while the same offences (with the exception of those specified in Article 3), if committed between the 19th April, 1876, and the 1st April, 1878, are to be considered as pardoned under the general amnesty.

The crimes excepted under the 3rd Article are robberies on the persons of infants of both sexes, as well as cases of rape, if not covered by the Statute of Limitations.

It is the 4th Article of this law, however, which demands the special attention of the Porte, and which will, it is to be hoped, prevent His Majesty the Sultan from giving his sanction to it.

It provides that, "notorious and certified malefactors whose presence in the country might cause a disturbance of public order, shall be expelled from the province."

I need hardly point out that, under such a provision, any Mussulman who may have been resident anywhere in the neighbourhood of a past massacre, and who may consequently be reputed to have taken part in it, may be drawn into the category of "notorious malefactors" and be expelled from the province, if already resident in it, or be prevented from returning to Eastern Roumelia if still in the condition of a refugee.

Nor will it be difficult to procure from a Tchorbaji and a Council of village Elders a document attesting the past criminality of any landed proprietor of the Turkish race, whose property would in consequence be sold or disposed of in a manner very unsatisfactory to himself. Indeed, a legend of criminality attaches to many a Turkish Bey now absent from the country, the most general accusation being that of having assassinated forty Bulgarian maidens.

It is owing to the prevalence of such legends and of the action that the local authorities have hitherto taken upon them, namely, by preventing the return of Turkish landed proprietors, or of expelling such as have ventured to return in defiance or ignorance of the arrangement which Aleko Pasha is stated to have made with the Porte in respect to such "criminals," that the present Mussulman populations of the province consists almost entirely of peasantry.

The lands of the former Turkish gentry are either lying waste, or being cultivated by Bulgarians on terms of their own choosing; while their homesteads and property in mills, shops, &c., have been destroyed or usurped on the same terms as their acres.

The object of the law in question is therefore simply to legalize and promote such a process of spoliation under colour of giving effect to an amnesty which in reality requires no interpretation on the part of the executive.

From this point of view the law is practically a law of proscription in flagrant violation of the rights of citizens, as defined by the Organic Statute.

Several Deputies protested against its adoption, and even M. Kessikoff, an ultra patriot, pointed out that it was unworthy of the "Bulgarian nation" to seek revenge after it had regained its liberty. The only modification, however, which those Deputies succeeded in introducing into the Government "Projet de Loi," was the insertion of the words "and certified" between the words "notorious" and "criminals;" but the addition of those words only gives a semblance of fairness to the penalty of expulsion, since the attestation of criminality would in most cases be quite as fictitious as its notoriety.

The Turkish Deputies voted for this law as they vote on almost all questions that are brought before the Assembly, namely, either in unhappy ignorance of the purport of speeches made, and of the contents of documents presented in a language that is entirely unknown to them, or on the strength of assurances that the measure proposed is in no way injurious to Mussulman interests.

The 5th and concluding paragraph of the law enacts that all illegal seizures of property are "subject to investigation," irrespective of the period of such usurpations.

The inclusion of such an elementary principle of law without reference even to a Statute of Limitations which no doubt exists under the general law of the Ottoman Empire, only serves still further to prove that the real object of the law is to mask a legalised proscription of Mussulman proprietors under Article 4.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 65.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 425.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 28, 1879.*

IN consequence of a somewhat violent altercation between the Governor-General and one of the Turkish members of the Provincial Assembly on the subject of the treatment which the Mussulman population has received at the hands of the Government, and during the course of which Aleko Pasha called upon the Deputy to prove his accusations, a Local Committee of Mussulman Notables drew up and presented to his Excellency the petition of grievances of which I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation.

Making every allowance for imperfection of style and for inadmissible demands, such as the exemption of the Turkish population from the payment of taxes during seven years, and the imprisonment of Mussulman females of the criminal class in the houses of Turkish Notables, the document is a bold and interesting exposition of wrongs and sufferings.

Aleko Pasha referred it to the Provincial Assembly, but it was returned to his Excellency on the ground of its informality, the petitioners having assumed a representative character to which they were not entitled under the Organic Statute.

It has since suffered the fate of the greater part of the petitions that have been addressed on the same subject to Aleko Pasha, namely, confinement in an official pigeon-hole.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 65.

Pétition from the Mussulman Population of Philippopoli.

(Traduction.)

Il est nécessaire que tous les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de race et de religion se réunissent en commun pour travailler au développement de notre province, soit par l'agriculture, l'étude, les bienfaisances, &c., qu'il soit donné des emplois à tous les indigènes sans exception, suivant leur capacité. D'après le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale (Article 22) les principales langues de pays : le Turc, le Bulgare et le Grec, sont employées dans la province par les autorités et par les particuliers dans leurs relations avec les autorités, selon les règles suivantes :

Les autorités administratives et judiciaires des départements, cantons, et communes pour leurs actes, jugements, correspondances, et publications, se servent de la langue de la population qui est en majorité relative dans leurs circonscriptions respectives, à moins qu'il n'y existe une minorité égale pour le moins à la moitié de cette majorité, auquel la langue de cette minorité est employée concurremment avec celle de la majorité.

L'Article 24 dit :—"Les indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

"Les emplois, honneurs, et fonctions publiques leur sont également accessibles, suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite et leur capacité.

"Les fonctionnaires et employés de la province sont pris parmi les indigènes de celle-ci, sauf les exceptions qui seront établies ultérieurement par un règlement d'administration publique."

Malgré la majorité Musulmane on emploi seulement la langue Bulgare, au lieu de deux langues, Turque et Bulgare, et cela selon l'Article 22 du Statut Organique.

Il est donc de toute nécessité que tous les fonctionnaires des autorités correspondent en deux langues.

Pour vérifier et voir si la majorité existe chez les Musulmans on peut bien lancer une Circulaire dans la province pour apprendre la vérité.

Si les créanciers des Musulmans portent plainte à l'autorité locale, celle-ci donne de suite la sentence, dans le cas même où les Musulmans n'ont pas à payer leur dette, et leur font vendre leurs champs au propriétaires pour payer ces dettes. En même temps, après un délai de soixante et un jours, sans attendre l'augmentation des prix, ils vendent les propriétés et champs et se font payer avec intérêt; cependant, nous autres, depuis notre retour dans notre pays, nous ne possédons aucun champ, terrain, ou propriété, notre seul moyen d'existence; nous n'avons rien; notre état est très-pitoyable; quand nous donnons malgré nous à quelques-uns le peu de propriétés qui nous restent, cela ne suffisant pas, nous restons encore débiteurs à plusieurs autres de nos créanciers, et par ce moyen nous nous privons même de notre pain quotidien. Il est donc urgent de nommer une Commission pour régler cette question de créance, en établissant que le paiement de ces dettes se fasse par appoints et sans intérêt; par ce moyen on sauvegarde les intérêts des créanciers en même temps qu'on soulage les débiteurs. Car de même qu'ici, il y a d'autres endroits, comme la Crète, où on prend bien en considération leur état; pourquoi nous autres, qui avons souffert fait par suite de la dernière guerre et autres causes, pourquoi ne devons-nous pas avoir la même tranquillité que les habitants de la Crète?

Nous vous prions donc de nous débarrasser des mains de ces créanciers en nommant une Commission qui décidera quant au mode de paiement de nos dettes. Aujourd'hui nous vous prions de vouloir bien prendre les mesures nécessaires qui nous permettront de travailler nos champs, payer nos dettes, et vivre sans souffrir.

Comme une grande partie des maisons Musulmanes dans les différents villages sont détruites, les réfugiés Musulmans qui rentrent sont sans asile, et vu la rigueur de l'hiver et la faim, ils se trouvent réduits à une très-triste position. Si dès aujourd'hui on ne prend pas des mesures pour prévenir leur misère, ils seront pour la plupart perdus. Et si on ne leur fourni pas les moyens de cultiver leurs terrains, en leur donnant des bêtes de somme et des grains, pour l'année prochaine, non-seulement qu'ils se trouveront dans la même misère, mais aussi les recettes du pays subiront une grande perte. Il est donc urgent et de toute nécessité de nommer une Commission composée de Notables qui pourvoira à leur entretien et distribuera en temps opportun des grains, etc., pour la culture de leurs champs, et fera restituer la moitié des récoltes ramassées pour les Chrétiens sur les propriétés des réfugiés Musulmans. Comme nous venons de le détailler dans l'article précédent, les réfugiés Musulmans sont sans ressources et sans moyens d'existence, et par cela même il sera très-équitable de les rendre exempts de tout impôt et de la dîme, au moins durant sept ans.

Les communautés religieuses ayant des revenus légaux en Roumélie Orientale, de même que les mosques, medressés, et autres établissements charitables, doivent conserver, selon l'Iradé Impérial, les revenus de leurs différents biens et immeubles, et doivent continuer de percevoir, avec l'aide et la protection des autorités publiques, comme par le passé, les revenus consacrés par l'usage à l'intretien de ces établissements, par leur propre Mutévelli, et surtout pour l'entretien de la mosquée et l'Imaret de Chahabetdin Pacha et autres établissements de bienfaisance. Il y a trente-deux villages dont les produits sont affectés à ces établissements, et qui doivent continuer à être perçus par le Trésor Impérial.

Il est donc nécessaire de prendre des mesures immédiates pour réparer ces

mosquées et les Imarets par leur Mutévilli avec les revenus encaissés jusqu'à ce jour par le Trésor, et de continuer de distribuer journellement le pain et la soupe, et même de payer aux Imams et aux Hadémés, qui sont chargés de soigner ces établissements.

De même, la couverture en plomb qui a été volé et enlevé en plein de la mosquée de Chahabetdin, doit être replacé immédiatement, selon les ordres donnés déjà par la Sublime Porte à ce sujet.

L'Administration intérieure et spéciale des écoles, y compris la nomination du corps enseignant, appartient à la communauté religieuse, qui en supporte les frais.

Si une communauté ne dispose pas de ressources suffisantes pour créer et entretenir des écoles secondaires, là où cela sera reconnu nécessaire il peut être alloué, par la loi du budget de la province, une subvention spéciale à la dite communauté.

Tous les propriétaires de prairies Musulmanes qui ont jusqu'à ce jour leur propriété par des Sénets conformes doivent posséder les mêmes privilèges; cependant, en ce moment les villageois Chrétiens font subir des difficultés aux Musulmans en ne leur rendant pas leurs propriétés: par ce motif les Mussulmans souffrent horriblement. Il est donc urgent que l'autorité prenne les mesures nécessaires pour rendre justice à qui de droit.

Dans l'Article 71 du Statut Organique il est dit qu'aucun particulier ne peut user du droit de couper ou de défricher ses bois qu'après en avoir fait la déclaration au Bailli.

Cependant tous les Musulmans sont victimés par des villageois Chrétiens, qui coupent et détruisent les forêts des villageois Musulmans sans en demander aucune autorisation; cela étant contraire au Statut Organique, il est donc de toute nécessité de prendre les mesures nécessaires et faire rendre aux villageois Musulmans l'indemnité de leurs forêts dévastés.

Le Chapitre II, Article 27, du Statut Organique, dit:—"Il est loisible à tout indigène de la Roumélie Orientale de circuler librement dans la province et d'établir son domicile dans la commune de son choix, sauf les restrictions apportées à ce droit par les règlements sur la police municipale."

Cependant, sauf la milice et les gendarmes, toutes les autres populations Chrétiennes possèdent confortablement des fusils et autres, tandis que la population Musulmane ne possède point d'armes à feu; leur vie n'étant pas sûre, il est urgent de faire ramasser de la population Chrétienne, sauf la milice et la gendarmerie, toutes les armes à feu et alors les Musulmans seront assurés de leur vie; en cas où cela ne serait pas exécuté, il faut alors que la population Musulmane aussi possède les armes nécessaires pour sauvegarder son honneur et sa vie.

Les récoltes des émigrés Musulmans qui étaient ramassées par les Bulgares, la moitié, qui leur est due, n'a pas été encore payée. Plusieurs émigrés Musulmans ont adressés des plaintes à la Commission des Emigrés pour réclamer cette moitié. La dite Commission a donné des ordres aux autorités locales; mais malheureusement aucune suite n'a été donnée aux ordres par les autorités des villages. De cette manière les affaires restent en souffrance et nous autres, ne recevant pas nos récoltes, nous souffrons énormément avec nos familles et nos enfants, n'ayant pas même des grains pour ensemencer, car nulle part on ne nous donne des ressources pour soulager les malheureux émigrés, qui restent sans le sou dans leur poche. Quoique les villageois aient réclamés leurs récoltes, les Bulgares refusent de les leur donner, disant que pour le moment ils n'en ont pas et que plus tard ils les donneront. Comme les émigrés n'ont plus de courage pour patienter, nous prions votre Excellence de hâter la livraison de ce qui leur est dû.

Toutes les décisions prises par l'Assemblée Nationale sont écrites seulement en Bulgare; comme nous ne comprenons absolument rien, veuillez nous les faire traduire en Turc, selon le Statut Organique, et nous les faire remettre.

Notre province est divisée en six Mutessarifs (départements) et vingt-huit cazas (Caïmacamlics); cependant, si dans les villages lointains les villageois ont quelque procès, ils sont obligés de faire un long voyage et dépenser une forte somme pour venir au district ou département pour poser leurs demandes.

Pour éviter donc ces frais aux pauvres villageois il est d'urgence de nommer à ces villages des Naïbs ou Mufti, qui donneront suite aux plaintes de ces malheureux villageois.

Les femmes Musulmanes sont emprisonnées dans des endroits qui ne conviennent pas.

Il faut donc prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que dans des cas pareils elles soient emprisonné dans des maisons des Notables Turcs, et leur faire donner les rations de prisonnier.

Article 412 du Statut Organique dit :—"Le logement est donné chez les habitants, à défaut de place, dans les bâtiments militaires; on tâchera, autant que possible, à loger les miliciens chez leurs coreligionnaires des localités occupées par eux."

Tous les émigrés qui, rentrant dans leurs foyers trouvent les miliciens occupant leur chambre, restent dans les rues ou dans des cabanes.

Il est donc urgent de faire évacuer ces maisons par ces soldats et laisser les malheureux émigrés Musulmans rentrer dans leurs maisons.

Pour réparer les maisons en ruines, l'autorité a fixé un prix exorbitant; il est donc nécessaire de vérifier cela et de diminuer ce prix, pour que les émigrés puissent faire réparer leur maisons.

Chapitre XII, Article 364, du Statut Organique, dit :—"Tout habitant indigène de la province est astreint au service militaire personnel dans la milice et dans sa réserve."

Article 378 dit :—"Pour l'opération du tirage au sort, il est établi autant de bulletins qu'il y a de noms inscrits sur la liste de recensement." Cependant ces tirages n'ont pas eu lieu, et cela contrairement au Statut Organique. Il est donc juste de faire ce tirage et de prendre des soldats parmi nous et même nommer des officiers Musulmans.

Article 477 dit :—"La composition du personnel de la gendarmerie est réglée par le Gouverneur-Général, sur la proposition collective du Commandant de la milice et de la gendarmerie et du Secrétaire-Général, Directeur de l'Intérieur, de façon à établir une proportion équitable entre les divers éléments de la population de la province. Cette proportion devra se trouver, autant que possible, dans la constitution des cadres. Il sera tenu compte des mêmes principes pour la répartition des membres de la gendarmerie entre les différentes localités."

Toutes les nationalités de notre province ont fourni des gendarmes; mais un nombre insignifiant a été choisi parmi les Musulmans.

Il est donc de notre droit, selon le Statut Organique, de prendre des gendarmes Musulmans pour que nous soyons au même niveau que les autres.

Il est juste que tout gendarme doit porter le kalpak, qui est porté aussi par les Musulmans. Comme les subordonnés, en se présentant devant un supérieur, sont obligés d'ôter leur kalpak, il faut, si cela est possible, que les subordonnés Musulmans en se présentant devant leurs supérieurs fassent un salut ("sélam"). Si cela ne se peut, il ne faut pas prendre de nous des gendarmes et soldats.

Par ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale, les Sociétés Gymnastiques devrait être supprimées; jusqu'à ce jour elles continuent à subsister. Il faut donc les dissoudre immédiatement.

Les miliciens après leurs exercices rentrent en ville en chantant les airs de marches; cela ne paraissant pas bien aux Musulmans et à d'autres, veuillez donner les ordres au Commandant-en-chef de les faire cesser.

En terminant, nous vous prions de donner des ordres à qui de droit pour la livraison des récoltes dues aux villageois et l'évacuation des maisons, pour que les Musulmans retrouvent la paix dans leurs foyers.

En portant à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui précède, selon le Statut Organique, veuillez faire exécuter par l'Assemblée et agir selon notre désir.

(Suivent 31 cachets des membres du Comité Musulman.)

Le 21 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

No. 66.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 126.) *Philippopoli, December* 28, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship translations of fourteen petitions that have recently been addressed to the Governor-General or myself by Turkish villagers of the neighbouring districts.

They are full of complaints of a character which is already well-known to your Lordship from documents of a similar nature transmitted in many previous despatches.

In some of them cases of death from starvation are mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Kodja Ogloular, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Les récoltes que nous avons laissées l'année passée, ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Hamzalar ainsi que les Bulgares d'Adjar résidant au village de Démirdjé.

Les vingt-trois familles qui sont parties avant nous ont reçu, suivant leur droit, la moitié de leur récolte; cependant nous (vingt et un familles), à notre retour de Gumurdjina, quoique nous ayons réclamé la moitié de nos récoltes, ils nous l'ont refusé nettement et ils n'ont rien donné.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence, pour ne pas mourir de faim durant cet hiver, de nous faire donner la moitié des récoltes qui nous sont dues.

Pour cultiver et ensemencer nos champs pour cette année nous avons demandé à l'autorité d'ici les grains nécessaires; elle nous a répondu que le Gouverneur d'Abrachlar donnerait suite à notre affaire, vu qu'il a reçu l'ordre.

Le Gouverneur d'Abrachlar nous informe qu'il n'a pas reçu des ordres; en conséquence, nous prions donc respectueusement votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire donner aux vingt et un familles arrivées de Gumurdjina les récoltes nécessaires pour ne pas mourir de faim.

Nous avons aussi le regret d'annoncer à votre Excellence que dernièrement cinq personnes sont mortes de froid et du manque de nourriture, et plusieurs de nous nous passons des journées sans pain.

En attendant votre just décision pour notre triste sort, veuillez, &c.

Les Représentants du village de Kodja Ogloular,

(Signé) AHMED OGLOU.
DJAFER.

Le 24 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 2 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Manol, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Les Forêts de Merétch, qui nous appartiennent, ont été détruites depuis deux ans par les villageois Bulgares de Keukdjeler, et on n'a pas laissé aucun arbre dans ces forêts, et de plus ils ont détruits nos maisons et dévasté nos champs et les jardins de nos maisons; en outre, ils ont coupé 400 platanes, dont chacun coûte 200 piastres, et ils continuent encore de couper les arbres dans nos forêts. Ces villageois, avec ceux de Youh Manol, ont saisi nos vignes et nos prairies, que nous avions laissées l'année passée.

Pour réclamer nos forêts et avoir les produits de nos champs, nous avons adressé des plaintes à la Commission des Réfugiés, ainsi qu'au Gouverneur de Ibrachlar; ces derniers, malgré qu'ils ont donné les ordres nécessaires à ces villageois pour nous restituer nos forêts et nos vignes, jusqu'à ce moment nous n'avons pu en prendre possession.

Sur les récoltes de nos champs de 800 deumms, les habitants Bulgares ont trouvé juste de nous donner seulement 300 kilés de blés. Comme tous nos villageois se trouvent dans une grande nécessité et souffrent horriblement de la misère, nous prions votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire rendre nos forêts et nos vignes et nous faire donner notre part de nos récoltes, et par cela nos malheureux villageois puissent vivre et ne pas mourir de la misère.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

(Suivent 4 cachets des Notables Musulmans du village de Manol.)

Le 22 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant Musulman du village de Yacoub-Bey, district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :—

Il y a un an j'étais envoyé par la Commission des Emigrés à mon village.

Les deux filles de mon défunt frère demeuraient avec moi, dont l'une s'appelle Edibé. De la Rue de Korou le Dachkala Bulgare est venu prendre les deux filles et les ont amené chez lui où il les garde jusqu'à ce jour. Quoique j'ai réclamé plusieurs fois les filles, le dit Dachkala ne me les rend pas et me chasse. Comme je suis le tuteur de ces filles, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien inviter Dachkala et me faire donner ces deux filles.

En attendant une réponse satisfaisante, veuillez, &c.

(Signé) MEHMED OGLOU MOUSTAPHA.

Le 28 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans de Carlova, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Nous sommes ouvriers cultivateurs ne possédant pas de bœufs ni outils nécessaires ; nous ne pouvons rien faire ; nous sommes aussi dépourvus de moyens d'existence, et nous nous trouvons dans une misère pitoyable.

Pour 800 familles nous n'avons que 200 maisons pour nous abriter pendant la saison d'été. Ces derniers aussi souffrent des mains des habitants Bulgares des villages de Prassa Din, Kalafour, Akdjé Kilissé et du district de Tchorlon, et plusieurs des villageois Bulgares louent leurs propres maisons et viennent s'installer dans les nôtres. Pour faire évacuer nos maisons nous avons fait nos plaintes au Gouverneur de Carlova. Ce dernier a donné des ordres en conséquence ; quelques-uns se conformant à ces ordres évacuent leurs maisons. Les autres, non-seulement ne veulent pas quitter nos maisons, mais ils nous répondent qu'ils ne les quitteront jamais.

L'hiver est très-rigoureux, et nous nous trouvons sans nourriture. De cette manière, si l'autorité ne prend pas ses mesures à temps, nous serons tous perdus. Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire donner notre nourriture pour cette hiver et les habitations nécessaires, et faire évacuer nos maisons qui sont habités par les villageois Bulgares.

En attendant impatiemment les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 32 cachets des Notables de Carlova.)

Le 12 Novembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 5 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village d'Issak Faki, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Les 400 dénums de champs ensemencés que nous avons laissés l'année passée ont été récoltés par les villageois Bulgares de Kotelmanlar.

Selon notre droit nous avons réclamés de ces villageois la moitié des récoltes qui nous est due. Ils nous ont donné seulement 63½ kilés, et ils refusent de donner le reste.

Nous nous trouvons donc avec nos enfants affamés. Si cela continue nous mourrons tous.

Nous prions donc votre Excellence de vouloir bien nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues pour que nous puissions vivre.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 2 cachets des Représentants du village de Issak Faki.)

Le 3 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Eyriler, compris ci-devant dans le district de Kenouche, département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Notre village ayant été attaché au district de Hadji-Elias, département de Haskeui, il se trouve à une distance de six heures du chef-lieu, tandis que Stanimaka est seulement à deux heures et demie d'éloignement de notre village.

Comme nos villageois souffrent beaucoup à cause de ces six heures de trajet pour pouvoir présenter nos plaintes, &c., à l'autorité de Hadji Elias, nous prions instamment votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner les ordres nécessaires à qui de droit, afin que désormais nous dépendions du district de Stanimaka.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 4 cachets des Représentants des villageois de Egriler.)

Le 1er Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 7 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Turkmenler, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur d'exposer à votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Nous sommes quarante-sept familles composées de trente-huit personnes.

Les récoltes que nous avons laissés l'année passée ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Tchobas, Mussélim, Vetek, Bourounmus, et Kousseli.

Selon notre droit, nous avons réclamé la moitié de ces récoltes aux villageois Bulgares des susdits villages, qui nous ont donné seulement 620 kilés Stambol.

Ayant réclamé le reste, nous avons été insultés et maltraités par ces villageois.

Nous avons réclamé à l'autorité des grains pour ensemencer nos champs pour l'année courante.

L'autorité de Dschelar a donné les ordres au village de Tchopa pour s'informer si réellement nous possédons des champs.

Il y a cinq jours cinq à dix personnes de notre village sont allées au village de Tchopa pour réclamer les récoltes de l'année passée, qui nous sont dues, et demander des grains pour ensemencer nos champs pour cette année.

L'autorité de Tchopa a arrêté ces dix personnes disant que lors de notre départ l'année passée nous leur devions des bœufs, des chevaux, et par force ils ont pris des séneds de ces personnes, et ils ont passé comme à-compte les récoltes que nous avons à recevoir. De plus, le nommé Ouzoun Oglou Moustapha, qui était avec ces personnes, a été battu horriblement.

Tous nos champs ont été ensemencés pour l'année courante par les Bulgares des villages de Tchopa et Mussélim, quoique nous ayons demandé de les cultiver nous-mêmes ; mais personne ne nous a écouté.

Les produits de l'année passée et de cette année de nos prairies et de nos vignes ont été pris par les dits villageois ; mais ils ne nous ont rien donnés.

Nous nous trouvons donc avec nos familles dans une misérable situation, et nous prions votre Excellence de nous dire les mesures que nous devrions prendre pour arranger nos affaires.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent 3 cachets des Notables du village de Turkmenler.)

Le 30 Novembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 8 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Aleko Pasha.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Kousséli-Kébir, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Nous sommes 120 familles composées de 440 personnes.

Les récoltes que nous avons laissés l'année passée ont été enlevées par les villageois Bulgares de Rahmanli. L'autorité a pris ces récoltes et les a placées au dépôt pour nous être distribués. La moitié de ces récoltes a été distribué aux villageois Bulgares, et on n'a donné qu'une quantité insignifiante à deux ou trois de nos villageois; les autres n'ont rien reçu. Nous n'avons pas non plus reçu l'indemnité pour la location de nos champs, et cette année les villageois Bulgares de Rahmanli ont ensemencés nos champs.

Jusqu'à ce jour nos villageois Musulmans ont pu vivre en faisant des dettes de tous côtés; malheureusement aujourd'hui nous nous trouvons sans aucun moyen d'existence, vu que nous n'avons pas même des rations. Nos villageois se trouvent dans un état bien pitoyable vu le froid rigoureux et le manque de nourriture.

Il est temps que votre Excellence prenne les mesures nécessaires en nous débarrassant de ces misères.

En attendant les ordres de votre Excellence, veuillez, &c.

Le Représentant des villageois de Kousséli-Kébir,
(Signé) AHMED OGLOU AHMED.

Le 3 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 9 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans des villages de Tahtab, Egriler, Arab-Vé, Torou-Atle, Yeni Malalé, du district de Konouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :

Nos villageois Musulmans se trouvent sans nourriture et sans abri, gisant dans les rues, et quelques-uns de nous demeurons dans des petites baraques et dans des écuries et greniers.

Il y a vingt-trois jours, vu notre triste état, quelques-uns de nous, nous étions obligés de quitter nos villages et venir ici. A notre arrivée nous nous sommes empressés de présenter plusieurs requêtes à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général. Malheureusement nous n'avons pu aboutir à aucun résultat.

Depuis notre retour de notre village nous venons d'apprendre qu'au village de Tahtab sont 2 morts de faim et du froid; 4 personnes du village d'Egriler; 8 personnes du village de Torou-Atle; Yeni Malalé, 3 personnes; total, 16 personnes, que sont morts de faim et du froid.

Hier encore nous avons appris que tous les villageois Musulmans sont dans une extrême misère et meurent de faim, et dans l'espace de quelques jours, s'ils ne peuvent avoir des secours de quelque part, tous mourront de faim et du froid.

Pour sauver la vie à tant de Musulmans ce n'est que vous seul, M. le Consul-Général, qui pourrez venir à notre aide et ne pas nous laisser mourir.

Votre humanité est connue par toute la population Musulmane, et que vous n'avez nullement cessé de nous être utile dans plusieurs circonstances en venant en aide à nos compatriotes Musulmans.

Par conséquent, veuillez prendre en très-sérieuse considération notre triste position et mettre fin à nos misères.

En attendant, M. le Consul-Général, vos ordres en conséquence, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants des villageois sus-indiqués,
(Suivent 6 cachets.)

Le 7 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 10 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Youtaklar, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant de département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :

Sur les récoltes que nous avons laissés l'année passée, ainsi que l'indemnité de location de nos champs, nous avons réclamés des villageois Chrétiens de Keledjle les deux cents et tant de kilés que nous avons à recevoir.

Ils nous font des difficultés pour nous les donner.

Notre misère va en augmentant; d'un jour à l'autre nous serons obligés de vendre nos champs, prairies et propriétés à des prix insignifiants, pour nous procurer de quoi vivre.

Nous sommes certains, M. le Consul-Général, que vous ne laisserez pas souffrir ces pauvres malheureux dans cette horrible situation, vu que les demandes itératives que nous avons adressées à la Commission des Réfugiés sont restées lettre-morte.

Nous vous supplions de vouloir bien nous faire donner le reste des récoltes qui nous sont dues et donner fin à cette terrible existence.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Représentant du district de Karadja-Dagh,
(Signé) Le cachet de Mouktar.

Le 8 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 11 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Yegherli, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit. Nous sommes 60 familles composées de 260 personnes.

Sur les récoltes que nous avons laissés l'année passée nous n'avons rien reçu, pas plus que l'indemnité de la location de nos champs; maintenant tous nos villageois se trouvent sans moyens, mourant de faim; quelques-uns de nous sont morts dernièrement de faim.

Si cela continue ainsi tous nous serons perdus à cause du manque de nourriture. Connaissant votre humanité envers nous, nous vous supplions, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre en considération notre état pitoyable et nous faire avoir les récoltes qui nous sont dues, et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et du froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les Représentants des villageois de Yegherli,
(Signé) GALIB.
HASSAN.

Le 6 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 12 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Kara-Tahir, district de Koyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :

Nous sommes 31 familles composées de 132 personnes.

Nos récoltes ayant manqué tous nos villageois se trouvent dans une très-grande misère et plusieurs sans nourriture.

Maintenant nous n'avons nulle part l'espoir de nous procurer des céréales. Nous n'avons pas non plus des rations.

Il y a cinq jours une veuve est morte de faim et a laissé deux orphelins qui meurent aussi de faim.

Si cela continue ainsi la famine nous emportera tous.

M. le Consul-Général, connaissant votre humanité sans bornes, nous vous prions

respectueusement de vouloir bien nous faire donner des rations pour ne pas mourir de faim, vu que nous n'avons aucun moyen d'existence.

En attendant impatiemment vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Représentant des villageois de Kara-Tahir,

(Signé) AHMED OGLOU HALIL.

Le 3 Décembre, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 13 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, représentants des habitants Musulmans des districts de Gueubsu, Koyoun-Tépé, Karadja-Dagh, et Konouche, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:

Nos villageois ont réclamé les récoltes qui leur sont dues depuis l'année passée. Ils ont aussi présentés plusieurs pétitions aux autorités à cet effet; mais malheureusement aucune suite n'a été donnée à leur justes demandes.

Les Musulmans sont dispersés çà et là dans les rues dans une misère pitoyable.

Dans nos villages tous les émigrés se trouvent sans nourriture mourant de faim.

Ils n'ont pu même toucher les récoltes qui leur sont dues.

Lorsque nous nous rendons à nos villages nous ne pouvons résister les soupirs de ces pauvres malheureux.

Pour exposer notre pitoyable état, nous nous sommes rendus à Philippopoli.

N'ayant pas le sou dans notre poche, nous nous trouvons dans les "liens," et à cause des rigueurs de l'hiver nos pauvres villageois ne peuvent pas même travailler; se trouvant aux désespoir et vu le manque de nourriture, ils sont obligés de vendre de 25 à 30 piastres chaque deunum (100 mètres) de champs; quelques-uns même pour un chenik de blés (10 ocques!) pour pouvoir trouver de quoi vivre avec leurs enfants.

Si nous continuons à vendre les quelques petits champs que nous avons, à l'avenir, que nous arrivera-t-il?

Maintenant il n'y a que vous à qui nous adresser et vous informer de notre critique position.

Nous vous prions donc, au nom de l'humanité, de vouloir bien nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues, ou bien de nous procurer d'autres moyens pour pouvoir vivre.

En cas contraire nos malheureux émigrés mourront de faim et du froid.

Nous vous prions humblement, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien faire prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos et de nous débarrasser de cette situation critique

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Suivent les cachets de 17 Notables et Mouktar.)

Le 10 Décembre, 1879 (v. s.).

Inclosure 14 in No. 66.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

Nous Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Turkmenler, district de Karadja-Dagh relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:

Nous sommes 39 familles composées de 150 personnes; nous demeurons dans notre village sans moyens d'existence pour l'hiver, et nous nous trouvons avec nos enfants dans une position pitoyable et mourant de faim.

Nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien nous faire donner des rations et la nourriture nécessaire pour pouvoir passer ce rigoureux hiver et ne pas mourir de faim et du froid.

Nous attendons avec grande impatience une réponse favorable au sujet de notre critique position.

Veuillez, &c.

(Suivent 3 cachets des Représentants des villageois de Turkmenler.)

Le 4 Decembre, 1879 (v.s.).

No. 67.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.)

(No. 22.)

Sir, *Adrianople, December 24, 1879.*

RÉOUF PASHA told me yesterday that he wishes your Excellency to know that he has thought it necessary to reply to the Circular of the Porte of the 10th instant, enjoining upon the Governors-General of the Empire the better maintenance of public security in their respective provinces. His Excellency stated that his reply was to the effect that the circumstances in which he found himself placed, rendered it impossible for him to be responsible for the preservation of public order; that he had, since the spring, made no less than twenty-one applications by post and by telegraph (giving the date of each application) for the gendarmerie to be increased to its proper complement, either by the despatch of recruits from Constantinople, or by permission being granted him to enrol men at Adrianople; but that a deaf ear had been turned to all his representations on the subject; and that, with only 600 men (a large proportion of whom have been newly recruited) he could not fairly be expected to maintain perfect order in a province which is full of starving and desperate men, and for which the full complement of gendarmes had been fixed at 3,200.

I promised Réouf Pasha that I would acquaint your Excellency with his statement, as set forth above.

Considering the weakness of the gendarmerie, and the innumerable elements of disturbance which exists in this vilayet, the relative tranquillity which prevails seems little short of miraculous.

The country roads (as I can testify from personal observation) are daily crowded with Christian peasants driving strings of produce, laden horses and mules into town; while the Musulman peasantry are almost to a man bereft of their cattle, and the few Turks one meets on the roads are generally to be seen trudging on foot, with an axe and a bundle of sticks to warm their hungry families at home.

Christians and Turks robbed each other very freely during and after the late war, but the final advantage was signally with the Christians, as the Turkish Governor-General has up to the present refused to enforce the claims of the plundered Turks.

If, under such circumstances, the Musulmans are not animated by feelings of hatred and revenge towards the Christians, they must be superior to the ordinary run of human beings; and that they do not generally commit acts of violence on their Christian neighbours is to be attributed to the extraordinary energy of Réouf Pasha, and to the constitutional submissiveness of the Turkish population to established authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 68.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 1168.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, December 26, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1140 of the 21st instant, inclosing the translation of a letter, alleged to have been written by Prince Labanoff, and published in the Turkish newspaper, the "Vakit," I have the honour to state that M. Onou, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, called to-day to inform me that the letter was not authentic, and that he had requested the Porte to have a notice inserted in the semi-official journal to that effect, which it did not seem disposed to do. All that it had done was to communicate on the subject with the Editor of the "Vakit," who had, in consequence, announced that he had been mistaken in attributing the letter to Prince Labanoff, but that it had been written by "a Russian diplomatist." Who that diplomatist was, if he existed at all, which was more than doubtful, M. Onou said, he was determined to ascertain.

Reuter's Agent having telegraphed to England that the authenticity of the letter

was denied, his telegram was stopped by the authorities at the Telegraph Office, acting, no doubt, upon orders from the Porte!

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1173.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 27, 1879.

I AM informed, on good authority, that the Porte is alarmed at the number of desertions that are taking place among the Turkish troops on the Greek frontier. Many Turkish soldiers who have received no pay for many months, and are now badly fed, are, it would appear, passing into Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1176.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 29, 1879.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT having written to me on the subject of the misconduct of the Kaïmakam of Kiupruli, against whose maladministration there were serious complaints on the part of the population, I brought the matter to the notice of the Porte. In reply to my representations I was informed that the Kaïmakam had been dismissed, and that his successor had already entered upon his duties. I accordingly wrote to that effect to Mr. Blunt, who now, I regret to say, reports to me that the functionary in question has not been dismissed, but has simply changed places with the Kaïmakam of Vodina. This is an instance, out of very many that I could mention, in which the Porte seeks to deceive the European Powers whose Representatives find it necessary to bring the misdeeds of its public functionaries to its notice, and upholds those who misgovern and maltreat the Sultan's subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 71.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1177.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 29, 1879.

THE Minister of War has suddenly issued an order dismissing at once all foreigners in the Medical Service of the Turkish army. There are several English medical men so employed. As yet I have only received a complaint from one of them, Dr. Deakin, who informs me that, in spite of a promise he received from the Dari Choura (the Council of War), that if he consented to serve in the Adrianople Military Hospital he should never be disturbed, and having on that assurance removed to that city with his family, he has been discharged at a moment's notice, and without the slightest previous warning.

I have little doubt that this measure originates with Osman Pasha, who seems determined to do all in his power to get rid of the European element in the Turkish service, including the English officers brought out to Turkey to organize the gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have made inquiries on this subject at the Porte, and am assured that the order above alluded to only refers to foreign medical men who were taken into the

service of the Turkish Government during the war, and not to those who have regular contracts, the terms of which will be respected.

A. H. L.

No. 72.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1182. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, December* 30, 1879.

I AM informed that a certain Nusret Ali Khan, who is described to me as a "black man" from Lahore or Delhi, who speaks English fluently, proposes to establish in Constantinople a newspaper in the "Ordou" language, which is intended for circulation in India with the view of promoting the interests of Islam. It would be hostile to the British rule, and advocate a kind of Mussulman league against it. He is in communication with several Indians who are here and who support his scheme, especially a certain Ali Effendi, who is Professor of English in the Naval School at Cassimpasha, and it is not improbable that he may have relations with the fanatical party in the Palace.

My informant is an English (Indian) subject, who was the editor of a journal in Arabic, which was suppressed some time ago for six months for publishing articles on the discontent and disaffection prevailing amongst the Arabs under the Sultan's rule in consequence of Turkish misgovernment and maladministration. He tells me that Nusret Ali Khan has asked him to join him in bringing out his newspaper, but that, being unacquainted with Ordou, and believing that the paper will be hostile to England, he has refused to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 73.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1186.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to enclose copy of a petition which has been presented to me and to the French Ambassador, from certain Christian inhabitants of Macedonia, and to which are appended above 100 Greek signatures, complaining of the ill-treatment and misgovernment to which the Christian population of that province is exposed, and praying that the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin may be put into strict execution.

I am glad to find from a letter from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, that my representations to the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha led to orders being sent to the Vali of Salonica to add to the Christian element in the Commission named for examining the new "Règlement" according to the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that the Christians of that vilayet are now less dissatisfied with the formation of that Commission than they were at first. Mr. Blunt further informs me that whilst he has also made representations on this subject to the Governor-General, none of his colleagues have interfered in the matter, a fact, he adds, which has not escaped the notice of the Greek community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Petition addressed to M. Fournier.

Excellence,

De jour en jour la situation de la Macédoine devient, grâce à l'indifférence des autorités locales, plus déplorable; les pillages, les vols, les meurtres, les atrocités, les violences, et les brigandages, s'augmentent d'une proportion effrayante; les malfaiteurs dénoncés par les Chrétiens, au lieu d'être punis rigoureusement et legalement, se promènent en plein jour dans les rues, armés jusqu'aux dents; la tranquillité et la

sécurité publiques depuis longtemps n'existent plus; le pouvoir prouve clairement sa partialité en faveur des Musulmans, et cette façon d'agir, contraire aux volontés de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est d'autant plus triste qu'elle est inspirée par ceux dont la charge et le devoir est de faire régner la concorde. Or, certes, la continuation de cette situation finirait par priver les malheureux Chrétiens de la province en question des moyens de vivre.

La Sublime Porte, par l'Article XXXIII du Traité de Berlin, s'est engagée à introduire dans les autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe pour lesquelles une organisation particulière n'a pas été prévue par le dit Traité, des règlements spéciaux, adaptés aux besoins locaux, et dont les détails seront élaborés dans chaque province par des Commissions Spéciales, au sein desquelles l'élément indigène sera largement représenté, et soumis à l'examen de la Sublime Porte, laquelle, avant de promulguer les actes destinés à les mettre en vigueur, prendra l'avis d'une Commission Européenne.

En conséquence, les Soussignés, habitants de la Macédoine, poussés par la conviction que la bienveillance et l'humanité des Puissances civilisées ne toléreront pas la continuation de nos souffrances, et persuadés que l'unique moyen propre à maintenir l'ordre, à assurer la tranquillité et la sécurité publiques, à offrir des facilités au développement libre et pacifique des Chrétiens de la Macedoine, et à rendre la paix durable en Orient, conformément aux intérêts de l'Europe et du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ne consiste qu'en la stricte et prompte application en notre province des dispositions de l'Article XXIII du Traité ci-dessus, bien entendu avec des modifications répondant aux exigences, aux mœurs, aux habitudes, et à la majorité de ses habitants, nous avons l'honneur de prier, au nom de l'humanité et de la civilisation dans la personne de votre Excellence, le Gouvernement par lequel vous êtes accrédité, de vouloir bien intercéder auprès qui de droit pour la prise immédiate des mesures nécessaires tendant à mettre fin à notre situation désespérée, à accélérer la mise en exécution des réformes octroyées par le Traité en question, à réunir tous les diocèses et cazas habités en majorité par des Bulgares, et dont se compose la Macédoine, c'est-à-dire ceux de Dibra, Ochrida, Kastoria, Phlorina, Monastir, Vodena, Meluyk, Terés, Drama, Dargan, Vélés, Ikopia, les Kazas, les Palenka Djoumas Tehtépé, et à en former un vilayet.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) 105 signatures.

No. 74.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Paris, January 7, 1880.*

M. DE FREYCINET begged me this afternoon to inform your Lordship that he was anxious to be made acquainted with the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the proposals respecting the Greek frontier contained in the Pro-Memoriâ, which had been communicated to your Lordship by order of his predecessor, M. Waddington.

He went on to say, that having taken up the question where it had been left by M. Waddington, he adhered to those proposals, and thought it very important that the Greek frontier question should be finally settled with as little delay as possible.

All the other Powers had, he thought, already agreed to the proposals, and it would, he added, give him great satisfaction to hear that they had been accepted also by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 75.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha, January 8.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 5 Janvier, 1880.*

LE Gouvernement Impérial s'est trouvé plus d'une fois dans la pénible nécessité d'appeler l'attention des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin sur la situation intolérable qui a été faite aux populations Musulmanes de la Principauté de Bulgarie.

Il s'est toujours adressé avec confiance aux Cabinets Européens, parce qu'il est convaincu qu'ils feront parvenir à Sofia des remontrances sur la conduite des autorités Princières. Sa confiance n'a pas été déçue, et le Gouvernement Bulgare reçut de toutes parts des représentations sur le traitement auquel sont exposés les Musulmans. Il paraît cependant que la Principauté est restée sourde à ces représentations, car les plaintes et les griefs des populations Musulmanes n'ont pas discontinué un seul instant d'arriver à Constantinople. Ces plaintes ont pris dans ces derniers temps des proportions telles, et une telle gravité, que la Sublime Porte se voit de nouveau dans l'obligation d'élever la voix en faveur des malheureux opprimés. C'est surtout dans le district de Pravadi que les actes les plus cruels se commettent contre la vie, les biens, et l'honneur des Musulmans. Trois villages entiers de ce district ont été pillés, saccagés. Les autres faits sont trop nombreux pour que je puisse les exposer ici. Qu'il me suffise de dire que dans la plupart des localités la force armée, chargée de maintenir l'ordre et la sécurité, se compose de la lie du peuple, et qu'elle est la première à se porter à des actes de cruauté sur la personne des Musulmans. Ainsi deux fonctionnaires du district de Silistrie ont soumis deux Musulmans à la plus affreuse torture, celle du feu, et les malheureux ont succombé à leurs souffrances.

Je vous prie de porter cet état de choses à la connaissance du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, et de faire appel aux sentiments d'humanité et d'indignation que doivent exciter en lui de semblables rapports, pour que de nouvelles et plus énergiques démarches soient faites à Sofia à l'effet d'arrêter le cours de cet intolérable régime.

No. 76.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Hengelmüller, January 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 7, 1880.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has given me knowledge of a telegram from Savas Pasha of the 4th instant relative to the surrender of Gussinjé, which, I suppose, has also been communicated with the Cabinet of St. James. The new Proclamation to the inhabitants seems to us to be to the purpose. But we regret to learn that the Porte makes the surrender of Gussinjé conditional on that of Kutchi-Kraina.

Your Excellency knows our objections against the cumulation of these questions. The Porte, too, has since never mentioned this condition, and even abandoned it expressly by the telegram to Edhem Pasha of the 16th of last month. This new request would merely delay the already too urgent solution of the Gussinjé difficulty —the fixation of the vague Kutchi-Kraina frontier being still very distant—and furnish Russia and Montenegro an opportunity for raising new difficulties and claims of compensation.

In the interest of a pacific solution we hold it to be an urgent necessity to weigh on each side for the removing of new difficulties. We have therefore sent instructions to Constantinople, in order to persuade the Porte to withdraw that dilatory condition, and eventually to content herself with a mere reserve relative to Kutchi-Kraina, and we beg the British Government to support our action at Constantinople. I need not add that we do not mean to question the rights of the Porte to Kutchi-Kraina.

No. 77.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, January 7, 1880, 4 A.M.*

THE Consular Body have just decided to meet again at 5 P.M., hoping that meanwhile Government will surrender keys and remove seal from Greek church illegally seized, as its failure in this respect would either identify it with act of violence committed, or prove its inability to maintain order.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 78.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, January 7, 1880, 4 P.M.*

THE church has been surrendered to the Greeks.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 7, 1880, 9 P.M.*

FOLLOWING from Salonica, dated to-day:—

"The numerous Mahommedan refugees in this vilayet, especially those in districts Djuma and Nevrocop, near Bulgarian frontier, are in very great distress, suffering from sickness, want of food, clothing, and shelter. Extraneous relief urgent, as local resources insufficient to meet the emergency.

(Signed) "BLUNT."

I regret to say that I have no funds at my disposal to afford any substantial relief.

No. 80.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

MR. ST. JOHN having stated that he considers he may be of use at Prisrend, I have answered that he may return there.

No. 81.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1 P.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, January 8, 1880.*

INTELLIGENCE received from Berlin leads the Government to suppose parties concerned are satisfied with turn Railway Bill has taken.

No. 82.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

YOURS No. 11.

Mr. Charles St. John may return to Prisrend as he proposes.

No. 83.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880, 7·10 P.M.*

YOUR private letter of the 31st ultimo.

I quite agree that it is desirable to publish papers as to ill-treatment of Mussulmans.

I have only been restrained by Michell's objections. But if you think I may publish without seriously compromising him, I will do so.

No. 84.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

SIR H. LAYARD having stated in his telegram of the 6th instant (No. 11), copy of which has been sent to you, that Mr. Charles St. John is of opinion that his presence at Prisrend might do good, if events of importance occur in Albania, I have informed him that he is authorized to return there instead of proceeding to Bosna-Serai.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 85.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1141 of the 21st ultimo, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government approve the representation made by you to the Porte on the subject of the sufferings of the Christian population in the Vilayet of Van, a copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's above-named despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 86.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1134 of the 19th ultimo relative to the constitution of the Commission appointed in the Vilayets of Adrianople and Salonica to examine the new Organic Statute which is to be introduced into the Turkish European Provinces in pursuance of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government approve the representation which your Excellency reports that you have made to the Porte as to the insufficient representation of the native element on that Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 87.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 19.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1154 of the 24th ultimo, relative to the settlement of the claims of the Mussulman proprietors of the Province of Andrianople, and the provision of relief for returning refugees.

I approve of the representations which you have made in support of Réouf Pasha's proposals, and I request that you will renew them if opportunity offers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 88.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 8, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 413 of the 21st ultimo, on the subject of the measures taken by the Relief Committee under the presidency of the Bulgarian

Exarch to alleviate the sufferings of the Turkish refugees in the Province of Eastern Roumelia, and of your own efforts to the same end.

I have to state in reply that your action in this matter meets with my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 89.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 9.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 6, 1880.*

THE "Neue Freie Presse" of last night publishes a telegram from Constantinople dated Sunday, purporting to give the text of a new Proclamation of the Porte to the inhabitants of the districts of Gussinjé and Plava. The telegram also states that Ghazi Mukhtar and the Governor of Scutari have received orders to send an officer of rank to the frontier in order to come to an arrangement with a Montenegrin Commissioner appointed for the purpose of signing and exchanging signatures of the Act of Cession.

The Proclamation is to the following effect:—

"Whilst the sublime Porte confirms its former Proclamations, it again informs you that by virtue of the formal stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, the territory of the districts of Gussinjé and Plava has ceased to form a portion of the dominions of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and belongs to the Principality of Montenegro, consequently any opposition to the entry of the civil and military officials of Montenegro into these districts will be illegal, and will bring evil upon you and your families, which the Imperial Government has endeavoured to spare you, and from which she has no longer the power to save you.

"For the last time, the Sublime Porte conjures you to submit yourselves or to avail yourselves of the fatherly measures which have been taken to secure the lot of those amongst you who abandon all opposition, and wish to leave the territory ceded to Montenegro. These measures consist in the granting to you of the necessary means of transport, for facilitating your emigration, and in the free gift to you of cultivable lands in the villayets of Monastir, Kossova, and Scutari, and in the Sandjak of Perat. The Imperial Government besides promises to furnish you gratuitously with seed corn for your fields, and to afford you facilities for the commencement of your first farming operations.

"Finally, you will be free for some years from the tithe and land tax. Should you remain deaf to this wise and prudent counsel, the Sublime Porte will be placed in the unavoidable necessity of giving you up entirely, and of ceasing every effort to better your lot.

"You will then only have yourselves to thank for the hard fate and the misfortune which will fall upon you."

The text of the Act of Cession is as follows:—

"The undersigned Special Plenipotentiary of the Imperial Ottoman Government declares by the present Act that he makes over to the Government of the Prince of Montenegro the districts of Plava and Gussinjé in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, for which end the Turkish civil and military authorities have withdrawn from the territory in question.

"The Undersigned in the present Act has given notice in regular form of the above to the Representative of the Government of the Prince.

"The undersigned Special Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Prince declares by the present Act that he makes over to the Imperial Turkish Government, in accordance with the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty of Peace, the district of Kuchi-Kruina, for which end the Montenegrin civil and military officials have withdrawn from the territory in question.

"The Undersigned in the present Act has given notice in regular form to the Imperial Ottoman Plenipotentiary."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 90.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 9, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 9, 1880, 2 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 10.

Austrian Chargé d'Affaires complained to me a day or two ago that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires has been suggesting to the Porte to offer in exchange for Gussinjé a part of the district of Vaseivich, evidently with the object of embarrassing Austria; and that M. Onou's language, which was constantly changing, was disinclining the Porte to accept advice of Austria to surrender Gussinjé at once.

No. 91.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 22.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 9, 1880.*

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires called on me on the 6th instant. He asked whether I had received any information with respect to the recent proceedings of the Porte for the transfer of Gussinjé to Montenegro, and read me a description of the Proclamation which the Porte was about to issue. I had not at that time received the exact terms of the Proclamation. I told him that we had urged the Porte strongly to make it quite clear to the inhabitants that the cession of their territory was inevitable, so as to disengage itself from the responsibility of the results of any resistance which they might offer.

The Porte, we understood, had mixed up with this question the question of the cession of Kranja by Montenegro to it, which was also stipulated by the Treaty of Berlin. The rights of the Porte in this matter were quite undoubted, and were disputed by none of the Powers, but the delimitation of Kranja was not yet complete, and therefore there was an inconvenience in attempting to combine the two cessions in one diplomatic operation.

Upon this point I thought it likely that some controversy might arise, but the matter was not one which was of any special interest to England.

M. Ressman then informed me that the Italian Government had accepted in principle the frontier which France had recently proposed for Greece, and asked me what the course of Her Majesty's Government in the matter would be. I said that we had received a proposition of M. Waddington shortly before he left office, but that it consisted of a bare enumeration of the points of the frontier which it was proposed to adopt, and contained no explanation of the reasons which had actuated the French Government in making this proposition. It was a very large departure from the line suggested at Berlin, and though we by no means held that the Powers were bound by that line, which could not be looked upon as more than a general indication, still it was impossible to assent to any new line departing from it without examining from point to point the grounds on which it could be justified.

We had not, therefore, as yet been able to reply definitively to the French Government.

In further discussion on the subject with the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, I did not conceal from him my great doubt whether mediation would lead at present to a satisfactory issue. The discussion at the Congress, formally recorded in the Protocol, explicitly excluded the employment of force, and to that remedy Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to consent.

But if force was not employed, it was evident that the success of the mediation must depend on the reception it was likely to receive from the Turkish Government, and in their present mood it was evident that a line going further than the suggestions of Berlin was very unlikely to be accepted. If that was the case, of course it was a matter for the consideration of the Powers whether the position of affairs would be improved by placing the Porte in the attitude of successfully defying their collective action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 92.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10, 1880.)

(No. 166. Political.)

Scutari, December 18, 1879.

My Lord,

THE interruption of the telegraph lines has prevented me from receiving earlier Sir Henry Layard's telegrams of the 8th, 11th, and 14th, and pointing out with regard to the last that I have no doubt that the Prince of Montenegro would be disposed to wait for the peaceable delivery of Gussinjé if he perceived any prospect of the Porte taking really active measures to that end, for His Highness is most anxious to gain the place without risking the lives of any of his subjects.

However, until now, nothing has happened but what was foretold by those who declined to believe in the engagements of the Turkish Government, and should the doubts as to the fidelity of its troops that are being expressed by the Porte be allowed to pass unchallenged, and without protest, they will assuredly ripen into deeds and facts which have equally been predicted.

Such a state of things ought to cause more anxiety to the Sultan's Government than to Montenegro, whatever may be the assurances received by the former from Russia, as the conviction already prevails in Albania that further connection with the Ottoman Administration is unadvisable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 93.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 7, 1880.)

(No. 168. Political.)

Scutari, December 23, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Gould's despatch of the 10th ultimo, communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 57 of the 4th instant, on the subject of a supposed alliance projected between Servia and Montenegro, I have the honour to state that, at the time General Bojo Petrovich and Voïvoda Masho Verbitza were reported to be at Belgrade, I was in daily communication with them in Cettinjé, and that the newspaper telegram announcing their presence in Servia caused us considerable amusement.

The jealousy existing between the Montenegrin and Servian Governments makes a spontaneous alliance between them very improbable, although, should complications again arise between Russia and Turkey, or between the former and Austria, there is no doubt that they would act in concert at the bidding of Russia, as they have had ample experience that they can count on liberal financial facilities as long as they obey strictly the orders coming from St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 94.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10, 1880.)

(No. 169. Political.)

Scutari, December 24, 1879.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's telegram of the 19th has only now reached me, and I hasten to reply that the inhabitants of Gussinjé might be led to consider any Proclamation from the Sultan in the sense proposed as a covert promise that the wish of the Albanians to be allowed to settle their differences with Montenegro alone will be respected.

The reported support which Turkey has unexpectedly met with from Russia in the attempt to justify the delay in the cession of Gussinjé-Plava, and the suggestion of offering an exchange in the direction of the territories now occupied by Austria, can only have the object of embroiling Turkey with Austria.

But the greatest danger exists in the fact that the Ottoman Government does not appear to understand how fatal to itself is the continuance of the present disorganization in this province, and that, instead of endeavouring to impress the world with the truth

of its assertions that it is powerless here in order to obtain additional time from Montenegro, it ought to show by energetic action that it still holds the Albanians under subjection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 95.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 10, 1880.)

(No. 170. Political.)

Scutari, December 25, 1879.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Lordship's telegraphic despatch of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to state that I do not share the belief of the Turkish Government, that the Mahommedan inhabitants of Gussinjé-Plava may be prevented from accepting the Montenegrin rule, in the uncertainty of the treatment their persons and property are likely to meet with from their new masters. The Mahommedans in these parts justly concede that Prince Nicholas' bearing towards them has been beyond reproach.

I have, however, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, called for assurances from his Highness which may remove all doubt as to the proper treatment of the Gussiniotes, should they be disposed to surrender.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 96.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 7, 1880.)

(No. 171. Political.)

Scutari, December 26, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the letter addressed to Mr. Consul-General Blunt from Pristina, and communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 59 of the 12th instant, I venture to observe that it bears evidence of having been written by a person quite recently arrived in the country, and who was unable to interpret correctly the reports reaching him.

The communication said to have been addressed by the Albanian League to the Italian-Montenegrin Boundary Commissioner is evidently the same made from Gussinjé to the entire Commission when at Podgoritza, and most of the other reports were fully treated by Mr. St. John when he was at Prisrend, and whilst the League was assembled there.

I fear, however, there is much truth in the concluding remark of Mr. Blunt's correspondent, that the Ottoman Government is quite incapable of suppressing future disorders in North-east Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 97.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 7, 1880.)

(No. 172. Political.)

Scutari, December 26, 1879.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH Sawas Pasha, as reported by Sir Henry Layard in his Excellency's despatch to your Lordship No. 994 of the 26th ultimo, still maintains that a conflict had occurred between the Montenegrins and the Albanians in the district of Gussinjé, which I had denied, I venture to explain that my information was not only derived from Montenegrin sources, but that I was also careful to have it confirmed from Gussinjé itself. Besides my testimony that of two other Englishmen, who happened to be near Gussinjé, on the Turkish side, at the time, could be adduced, if necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 98.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10, 1880.)

(No. 173. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 170, Political, of the 25th instant, I have the honour to place before your Lordship the substance of a telegraphic reply received by me from the Montenegrin Government:

"His Highness the Prince authorizes you to repeat to Her Britannic Majesty's Government the assurances which you had already given it with regard to the fate of the Gussinjotes, who may count on the most equitable and gentle treatment, provided they surrender at once; but if they prefer to await an attack, they must look for no mercy.

"Active operations are about to commence almost immediately; therefore the Prince urges the Queen's Government to act the part of a friend, and endeavour to prevent a useless effusion of blood. The Porte, the Montenegrin Government is persuaded, could, by the mere issue of an order, obtain the immediate execution of the terms of the Berlin Treaty concerning Gussinjé.

"Her Britannic Majesty's Government will be conferring an inestimable favour on the Prince by preventing through its action the bloodshed which appears inevitable, and which the Montenegrin Government cannot itself accept as a reason for further delay."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 99.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10, 1880.)

(No. 174. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 173, Political, of this day's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copies of the communications which have passed between the Montenegrin Government and me on the subject of the proper treatment by the Montenegrins of the Mussulman inhabitants of the district of Gussinjé-Plava.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Mr. Kirby Green to M. Verbitza.

(Télégraphique.) *Scutari, le 25 Décembre, 1879.*

JE vous prie de communiquer ce qui suit, de ma part, à Son Altesse:

Le Gouvernement Britannique m'ayant fait connaître qu'une des raisons avancées par la Porte pour les difficultés rencontrées par elle dans la livraison paisible de Goussinjé est l'incertitude de la part des habitants Musulmans au sujet de la sécurité de leurs personnes et biens quand ils appartiendront au Monténégro, je me suis permis de répondre sans hésitation que Son Altesse le Prince, je suis persuadé, ne manquera pas d'accepter les gens de Goussinjé-Plava comme ses sujets avec la même générosité et justice qu'il a montré envers les autres Musulmans sous sa juridiction, aussitôt qu'ils voudront bien se soumettre aux décisions du Traité de Berlin, et que leurs personnes et biens n'auront rien à craindre.

J'espère que Son Altesse ne refusera pas de confirmer mes appréciations, et m'autorisera de donner des assurances formelles dans ce sens à mon Gouvernement.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

M. Verbitza to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Télégraphique.) *Cettinjé, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Décembre, 1879.*

J'AI communiqué le contenu de votre dépêche à Son Altesse le Prince. Elle me charge de vous remercier d'avoir déjà répondu à votre Gouvernement en rendant justice à ses sentiments vraiment paternels pour tous ses sujets de quelle religion ils fussent.

Elle vous prie d'en renfermer l'assurance à votre Gouvernement quant aux gens de Goussinjé, qu'ils seront traités, s'ils ne tardent pas à se rendre, de la manière la plus douce et la plus équitable; mais une fois attaqués ils ne sauront plus compter sur aucune grâce. Cette éventualité est sur le point de s'effectuer, et Son Altesse prie le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine de vouloir bien épargner une effusion de sang inutile en faisant des démarches auprès de la Sublime Porte, qui, nous sommes convaincus, peut par un seul ordre faire exécuter le Traité de Berlin en ce qui concerne la localité en question.

Son Altesse sera vivement reconnaissant au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté si le résultat de sa démarche conjurera une effusion de sang que malgré nous nous ne saurions différer ou éviter.

No. 100.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10, 1880.)

(No. 175. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, December 28, 1879.*

IN accordance with a telegram received this morning from Sir Henry Layard, I took prompt steps to communicate to the Montenegrin Government the decision of the Porte to send an Imperial Commissioner to Gussinjé as the bearer of a Proclamation from the Sultan.

I do not believe, however, that the Commissioner can obtain access to that district unless he is accompanied by a sufficient military force, and if the Government sends troops they by themselves can put an end to all existing impediments.

I also do not think that the idea entertained at Cettinjé, that the settlement of the Gussinjé question can be secured through the despatch of *bond fide* instructions from Constantinople, is at all well founded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10.)

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 9, 1880, 6 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires informs me that Albanians from Gussinjé have crossed into Montenegro, and have attacked Montenegrins. He has received instructions from his Government, which believes that the Porte is acting in bad faith, to renew his urgent representations to it for the immediate surrender of the district, to avoid serious complications.

Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs showed him a telegram from Moukhtar Pasha in which he admits that 3,000 Albanians from Jacova to Ipek had joined the 4,000 armed inhabitants of Gussinjé.

(Sent to Green.)

No. 102.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10.)

(No. 5. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, January 10, 1880.*

GENERAL STRECKER assures me, under the seal of secrecy, that the Governor-General has just received a cyphered telegram from the Palace conveying the Sultan's approval of his conduct, promising him the Osmanieh, but asking him to relieve the refugees.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 103.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, January 10, 1880.*

GREEK Government are on the point of instructing their Commissioners at Constantinople to break off negotiations and return home.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 104.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 10, 11·30 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehrán, January 10, 1880.*

YOUR No. 5.

Had drought continued, next year's crops would have failed and famine would probably have ensued. Late rainfall, which has been general, has greatly improved prospects; more rain, however, needed.

Prices still high in all provinces, and will remain so next season.

Much distress existing in Oroomiah district, containing some 400 villages, not 4,000, as stated by Mr. Abbott.

Great suffering reported from Turkish side of frontier. Should funds be subscribed, I would suggest that they should be deposited here for the present to be available for relief of necessitous districts when occasion required, and that it should be left for decision here, when relief is needed, what form it should take, and whence supplies should be drawn. In Oroomiah, distribution of relief should be confided to American missionaries. Hermanshah seems not available for purchase of grain on account of scarcity.

No. 105.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 2, 1880.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 277 of the 28th November, I have the honour to inclose copy, as published in the "Messager d'Athènes" of the 1st instant, of the eighth Greek Memorandum submitted by the Commissioners at the last Conference, held at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Extract from the "Messager d'Athènes" of January 1, 1880.

[See Part XLIV, p. 173.]

No. 106.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 10, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed confidentially that the Porte has directed an official from this to proceed to-morrow to the frontier near Podgoritza, there to await a Montenegrin Delegate, when it is hoped an exchange of documents will be effected—in one announcing the delivery of the Gussinjé district to Montenegro through withdrawal from it of all Ottoman functionaries and troops, and in the other the delivery of the Kuoka Kraina to Turkey by the retirement from it of all Montenegrin officers and troops.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 107.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January 10, 1880.*

FOLLOWING telegraphed to Sir A. H. Layard:—

"Albanian version of fighting mentioned in your telegram of yesterday is that the Montenegrins attacked with seven battalions the village of Novsico, and were repulsed with great loss, leaving one gun and the carriage of a second in the possession of Albanians, who continued pursuit of fugitives to Montenegrin territory.

"(Sent to Foreign Office.)"

No. 108.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December 17, 1879.*

THE Ottoman member of the Servo-Turkish Commission, which is to carry out the prescriptions of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, reached Belgrade some time ago; but, strange to say, the Servian Government refused him permission to come on here.

I had, therefore, to remind M. Ristich that the conduct of the Servian Government in this matter was inexcusable, and that it would have to be seriously noticed by the Signatory Powers. His Excellency excused himself by saying his time was so completely taken up during the Session of the Skuptschina, that he could not possibly attend to the Ottoman Commissioner for the moment. I might, however, inform the Commissioner he was perfectly at liberty to come to Nisch, and visit any part of the country he wished, pending the appointment of his Servian colleague, which would be made immediately after the close of the Session—in about a month hence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 109.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 11, 1880.)

(No. 312. Secret and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December 17, 1879.*

WITH reference to my preceding despatch No. 311 of this date on the subject of the Servo-Turkish Commission, I have the honour to add, for your Lordship's information, that I had brought the matter to the knowledge of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by telegraph.

His Excellency telegraphed back that "the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs said he would insist on the Ottoman Commissioner going to Nisch, and if the Servian Government refused permission, he would appeal to the Powers."

At the very same moment I received another telegram from the British Vice-Consul at Belgrade, stating that the Austro-Hungarian Minister had communicated to him, verbally and in writing, his instructions with regard to this question. "He was directed by his Government to urge Servia to appoint her Commissioner immediately, reminding her of Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, of the fact that she has come into the active enjoyment of the advantages secured to her by that Treaty before the other States concerned, and of the necessity of not incurring the suspicion of wishing to escape from her obligations, and finally, he was also instructed to act in concert with me."

I thereupon caused M. Ristich to be confidentially informed of the steps I should be compelled to take, in common with the other Representatives of the other Signatory Powers, to force Servia to comply with her Treaty obligations in this respect, and gave his Excellency twenty-four hours' time to reflect.

M. Ristich, though somewhat annoyed, at once saw that the position he had taken up was untenable, and sent me word that he had no objection to raise to the presence of the Ottoman Commissioner at Nisch, who was quite at liberty to visit any part of the country he pleased, and that the Servian Commissioner would be named immediately after the close of the Skuptschina.

Under the very difficult circumstances in which M. Ristich is placed I did not think it necessary to push the matter further, especially as I find that there is a considerable discrepancy between the language held by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to Sir Austen Layard, and the instructions of the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Belgrade.

I hope to have thus succeeded in gaining the object really in view, whilst avoiding an unnecessary correspondence of an unpleasant nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 110.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 314.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December* 19, 1879.

SOME months ago the Servian Government named special Commissioners to inquire into and report upon the legal rights of the unfortunate Mussulman proprietors in the annexed districts, as well as the value of their estates, from which they have received nothing in the shape of rent for the last two years.

In this respect, the Servian Government is not as culpable as it would seem at first sight, for the Christian peasants, considering the land theirs since the Turks were driven away, have either refused to cultivate it, or done so on condition of not being called upon to pay their rents.

The Report of these Commissioners, which is said to be a most outrageous *ex parte* statement, after passing through the Senate, is now in the hands of the Cabinet, preparatory to being submitted to the Skuptschina.

That Assembly will then be called upon to vote a law fixing the amount of the indemnity to be paid; the manner in which it is to be levied on the peasants, and distributed among the Mussulman proprietors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 111.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 315.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December* 20, 1879.

THE political relations between Servia and Austria-Hungary are daily becoming more embittered. The trade of Servia has been severely crippled by the sudden application of the Austrian General Tariff, not only along the old boundaries between the two countries, but in like manner along the Servo-Bosnian frontier.

The refusal on the part of the Imperial Government to enter into commercial negotiations until after the conclusion of a railway Convention, as well as the privileged position it claims the right of assuming towards the Principality, have produced a deep and painful impression.

It is beginning to be feared, perhaps not without reason, that Austria-Hungary, strong in the support of Germany, is bent on creating such a condition of things in this country as will eventually afford it a plausible pretext for annexation.

Servia, comparatively speaking, a small, poor, semi-civilized State, can scarcely exist without the political support of other more powerful nations.

She has hitherto looked for that support to Russia, and the more she is pressed by Austria-Hungary, the more she is driven to seek it; but the aversion of her Government and people to both these Powers is now nearly equal, for they have suffered equally, though in different ways, at the hands of both.

They state that they would greatly prefer consolidating their newly-acquired independence, and peacefully developing the resources of their country, with the support and encouragement of the Western Powers, from whom they have everything to hope and nothing to fear.

They trust that in any case these Powers will effectually veto their absorption by Austria-Hungary, for such a proceeding on her part would prove a fatal blow to the Treaty of Berlin, and open up a new phase of the Eastern question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 112.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 316.)
My Lord, *Nisch, December* 22, 1879.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 107 of the 3rd November, inclosing a copy of Mr. Adams' despatch No. 995 of the 5th October last on the subject of the emancipation of the Jews in Servia, I have to state that last autumn M. Ristich held to me exactly the same language he seems to have addressed to the French Representative at Belgrade.

I must own, at one time, I failed to attach much weight to the reasons assigned by his Excellency for wishing to defer submitting the Jewish question to the final sanction of the Extraordinary Skuptschina.

Since my return from England I have, however, become convinced there is such general distress and discontent throughout the whole country, that the meeting of the Extraordinary Skuptschina at the present moment would have been, as M. Ristich had affirmed, fraught with danger to the existing Administration.

Owing to the total failure of the crops the peasantry are suffering severe privations, and in some districts they are already reduced to support themselves on the inner bark or rind of trees, the price of maize, their chief article of food, having more than trebled since the preceding harvest.

The townspeople, or wealthier classes, are also discontented, because they now feel, for the first time, the pressure of the new patent or income tax. Hitherto they had succeeded in throwing almost the whole burden of taxation on the peasants; whereas formerly they had only to pay the "Porez," or general tax, the maximum of which could in no instance exceed 240 dinars, or 9*l.* 12*s.*, per household; they are henceforth to be assessed according to their incomes, in addition to having to pay the "Porez" or general tax. Moreover, they complain, with reason, of the extremely arbitrary manner in which the patent or income tax has been assessed; but, under the circumstances, this was unavoidable, seeing that there does not exist any official valuation of property, and that all those affected by the new impost combine to evade it.

This state of things has made itself even felt in that well-packed assembly, the Skuptschina, where the Government are meeting with an unusual amount of opposition to the majority of the measures they bring forward.

As a class, the relatively small number of Jews in Servia are as prosperous as any other. Their sympathizers abroad seem to take a far more vivid interest in their emancipation than they themselves.

Having long enjoyed political rights, and being allowed freely to reside in the five principal centres of commerce and population in Servia, namely, Belgrade, Schabatz, Semendria, Pojarevatz, and Nisch, emancipation in their eyes practically reduces itself to being further granted permission to settle and trade in the few insignificant towns to be found in the interior of the Principality, for they do not attach much value to the right of holding landed property.

The bright prospect of this emancipation, if it can be properly so called, is darkened by the fear they entertain of being swamped by an influx of their co-religionists from the neighbouring Principality of Roumania, notwithstanding the fact that 0·33 per cent. of the latter have recently acquired the rights of Roumanian citizenship. Such an influx of Roumanian Jews would be even more unwelcome to the Servian Jews than to their Christian fellow-countrymen.

Nevertheless, I have good reason to believe that Prince Milan, M. Ristich, and the Servian nation at large, are sincerely desirous to comply with their Treaty obligations in this respect, and that they will not fail to seize the first favourable occasion to submit the measure of Jewish emancipation to the final sanction of the Extraordinary Skuptschina, where it will not meet with any serious opposition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 113.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 39. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna Serai, December* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Austro-Turkish Commission, charged to make arrangements regarding the Turkish war material found in Bosnia at the time of the Austrian occupation, seems to be unable to bring its labours to a satisfactory conclusion. The sittings have been suspended, and matters referred to the respective Governments. The Austrians say that the Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, delays indefinitely any settlement by his unreasonable demands, while Husni Pasha on his side complains bitterly of the want of good faith on the part of the Austrians. He says that besides the question of the arms and ammunition to be delivered over large quantities of provisions, military clothing, medical stores, &c., have been consumed or sold by the Austrians, for which he can obtain no account. He also complains that the Austrians do not frankly acknowledge the possession even of arms and stores, for which at the time of their entry they gave written receipts, but leave him to ferret out and discover the existence as best he can.

It is of course very difficult to form a correct judgment on the matter, but from the irregular and arbitrary proceedings which, to my own knowledge, occurred during the time that General Philippovich was in command, I think it is not improbable that in many cases at least Husni Pasha may have right on his side. On the other hand, the continued presence of Husni Pasha at Serajevo is certainly not agreeable to the Austrians, and one would therefore think that they would be ready to make all reasonable concession so as to bring matters more speedily to a termination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. FREEMAN.

No. 114.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 345.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December* 26, 1879.

THERE can be no doubt that active negotiations are going on between the Ministers at Bucharest and Messrs. Haussmann and Bleichroder at Berlin with reference to the amendment so rashly introduced by the Chamber of Deputies in the Convention for the purchase of the railways.

Great efforts are being made from different quarters to induce the Roumanian Government to reconsider the subject, and yield on this point to the requirements of the German Chancellor, whose dissatisfaction makes itself felt in the strongest terms, giving to this discussion an international character.

Almost every great Power with the exception of Russia and Turkey has given Roumania friendly advice in one form or another, but all sending to persuade it to concessions; and it is hoped that wise councils will ultimately prevail, and that the Senate can be induced to re-establish the original text of the Convention.

Should, however, the Ministers fail in inducing the Chambers to adopt this conciliatory view, and should the rejection of the Purchase Bill follow, we may anticipate serious consequences, as the resentment of Germany would be sure to make itself felt, and it is not at all likely that any means could be found for a very long time to settle a railway Convention satisfactory to the Imperial Chancellor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 115.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 347.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December* 30, 1879.

IT has transpired here that Baron Kendell had, by order of Prince Bismarck, made known the great dissatisfaction of his Highness at the recognition of Roumania by Italy, contrary to the understanding established between the four Powers.

When this subject was mentioned to Count Tornielli he said, "Never mind; *cela passera.*"

On the whole, however, the new Envoy has hitherto observed a very great reserve, and has confined his diplomatic action to recommending the passing of the Railway Purchase Bill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 116.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 349. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December* 30, 1879.

IN forming an estimate of the difficulties which the Roumanian Ministers have to surmount in passing the Railway Purchase Bill, the obstacles thrown in their way by influential persons at Bucharest who have always been put forward hitherto as the protégés of Germany must not be overlooked.

MM. Mavrogeni, Epureano, T. Rosetti, Carp, and Maiosesco have been always considered as possessing in a high degree the confidence and support of the ruling powers at Berlin; it is hardly reasonable to suppose that a gentle hint from that quarter would not have produced the effect of neutralizing their virulent opposition to the railway scheme; it is therefore to be presumed that no such intimation was given them.

On the other hand, one-sided pressure of an unusual character has been employed with regard to the Prince and his Ministers, and this difference of treatment has greatly contributed to aggravate the dangerous crisis going on here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 117.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 350.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, December* 31, 1879.

REPORTS having reached this capital that the Spanish Government were about to accredit a Minister here, I have made inquiries at the Foreign Office, but have been unable to obtain any information either confirming or contradicting this rumour.

The commercial houses at Bucharest dealing with Belgian goods have received assurances, however, that the arrival of a Minister from their Court may be shortly ex-

pected, as the Government at Brussels is desirous to secure commercial advantages, if possible, earlier than those I hope to obtain for British trade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 118.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January* 1, 1880.

ONE of the most striking incidents during the progress of the negotiations between Germany and Roumania on the subject of the purchase of the railways has been, no doubt, the earnest and thorough support given by Austria-Hungary to all the German demands at Bucharest.

As Austria has important interests at stake in Serbia with regard to the prompt construction of the railway lines in that Principality, and as she has been hitherto foiled in these through the secret opposition of Russia, it may be expected that Germany will reciprocate the advantages received, by giving equally powerful support at Belgrade.

Russia has hitherto been accustomed to depend on unconditional German countenance in both these Principalities, and this till quite lately; such a change can by no means be palatable to her diplomacy, but whilst her Agents hardly disguised the support they gave to the opponents of Jewish Emancipation in Roumania, their attitude to the Railway Scheme, though decidedly unfavourable, has been more cautious and reserved, and especially so since Count Schouvaloff's visit to Varzin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 119.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January* 3, 1880.

AT a late hour this evening the Bill for regulating the purchase of the Roumanian Railway lines by the Government was adopted by the Senate by 38 votes against 4.

Twelve opponents of the measure, who had recorded their votes against its reading this morning, abstained from taking part in the final decision of passing the Law in the Upper Chamber, of which they are Members.

The text of the Law thus adopted is almost entirely in accordance with the agreement originally concluded with the Berlin bankers, who represent the German Company owning these lines.

The amendment to which such serious objection had been taken, when introduced in Article 28 of the Convention by the other Legislative Chamber, has been expunged by the Senate, in conformity with the wishes of the Imperial Chancery.

After the termination of the Christmas vacation, according to the old style, which commences to-morrow, the Bill will have to return to the Chamber of Deputies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 120.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a French translation of a Protest presented to the Senate by some of its Members against the adoption of the Railway Bill.

Amongst the signatures I notice the names of some whose pretensions to succeed

the present Ministry in office were warmly supported by the former Representative of Germany at Bucharest on several occasions, and even as lately as a year ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Protest deposed in the Roumanian Senate by the Opponents of the Railway Bill.

(Translation.)

CONSIDÉRANT que les rapports entre la Société des Chemins de Fer et l'Etat sont réglés par l'Acte de Concession passé avec le *consortium* Strousberg, et par la Convention de 1872 qui a été signée avec cette Société;

Considérant qu'en dehors de ce qui est stipulé par ces deux Actes, la Société n'est en droit de rien exiger de l'Etat Roumain, ni cet Etat n'est obligé lui rien devoir;

Considérant que l'Etat a rempli religieusement ses engagements vis-à-vis de la Société;

Considérant que si la concession primitive prévoit la possibilité du rachat éventuel au bout de trente ans, de tous les droits des concessionnaires, ce rachat est stipulé comme un droit en faveur de la Roumanie et non pas comme une obligation à sa charge;

Considérant que même le cas de raccourcissement de l'espace de trente ans est facultatif à la suite du consentement des deux partis, mais que de cela ne résulte pas une obligation pour l'Etat de faire le rachat sur d'autres bases que celles qui ont été déjà stipulées;

Considérant que la chose étant ainsi il ne peut être question d'un engagement international, ou de la lésion des intérêts de tiers, et cela d'autant plus que le Gouvernement a formellement déclaré n'avoir pris aucun engagement vis-à-vis de l'Empire Allemand;

Considérant, qu'en effet le Gouvernement ne pouvait pas même prendre un pareil engagement obligatoire pour le pays, car le vote donné par les Chambres de racheter les chemins de fer était entendu sur les bases de la Convention de 1872 et de la Concession de 1868;

Considérant que la Convention présentée aujourd'hui par le Gouvernement abandonne le terrain créé par la Convention de 1872 ce qui met l'Etat face à face avec divers détenteurs de titres de l'Etat dans une position douteuse, et que cette transaction, loin d'être une liquidation définitive, ne peut être considérée que comme un point de départ aboutissant à de nouveaux sacrifices financiers, qui modifieront sensiblement les prévisions du Gouvernement;

Considérant que quelque soit l'avantage économique du projet, cet avantage ne peut être produit que lentement tandis que son influence désastreuse se fera sentir immédiatement sur notre place;

Considérant que M. le Ministre des Finances a lui-même reconnu que la paralysie du crédit d'un Etat peut dans un moment donné provoquer sa perte;

Considérant que le premier devoir des Corps Législatifs consiste à veiller au maintien de la liberté d'action de l'Etat;

Les Soussignés votant contre le projet du Gouvernement croient que les difficultés existant aujourd'hui ne peuvent être résolues que par une liquidation totale et définitive sur la base du contrat qui règle les rapports aujourd'hui.

(Signé) M. C. EPURIANO.
G. G. CANTACUZENE.
T. E. FLORESCO.
L. CATARGIU.
G. MANN.
C. SILION.
M. GHERMANI.
P. MAVROGENI.
G. ROSNOVEANO.
T. ROSETTI.
GIURGIA.

No. 121.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 5, 1880.*

IT is very much to be regretted that the Roumanian Ministers found it impossible to get the Railway Bill passed a second time by the Chamber of Deputies without the obnoxious amendment, so as to conclude this important matter before adjourning for the holidays.

According to the established forms the discussion must be simplified, as it will be confined to the passages of the original Convention restored by the Senate, which, if they happened to be rejected by the other Chamber, would have to lead to a dissolution as the only means of complying with the demands of Germany.

The Chambers are to meet again on the 21st instant, and it is probable and generally expected that no further difficulties will arise to delay or endanger the passing of the Railway Bill.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 122.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 6, 1880.*

WHEN you were asked by the German Government to instruct me to speak invariably in the sense that England would act in concert with the two other Western Powers on the question of recognizing Roumania, your Lordship was pleased to express "that it was impossible that I should have held any other language," an observation which, I need hardly state, gave me the greatest satisfaction, and anticipated my own assurances of the same day to your Lordship.

I am gratified, nevertheless, to see, from Lord Odo Russell's despatch of the 10th December, 1879, that the German Government has had no cause whatever to attribute any such language to me, and that the information which reached Prince Bismarck asserted "that at Bucharest the Roumanian Government gave out that England would soon follow Italy's example."

Count Tornielli only arrived at Bucharest on the 15th December; he must, therefore, be entirely acquitted of having encouraged any such hope, and I am at a loss to make out how such a conclusion, going beyond vague gossip, can have been reported to the Imperial Chancery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 832.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 29, 1879.*

THE Austrian Government learn from Constantinople that the Porte is sending instructions to Moukhtar Pasha to concert with the Prince of Montenegro in determining a place for meeting a Montenegrin Commissioner, into whose hands he shall deliver the formal Act of Cession of Gussinjé and Plava, while, at the same time, he is to issue a Proclamation to the inhabitants of the district, notifying to them that they had become Montenegrin subjects.

If these instructions are loyally carried out, the Austro-Hungarian Government will be quite satisfied.

They are not, on the other hand, so well pleased with the intelligence sent to them by their Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, who reports that the Prince of Montenegro is sending a Circular to the Powers, couched apparently in very intemperate terms.

It seems that he accuses the European Governments of having interfered to prevent him from taking possession of Gussinjé and Plava by force; by which he had been put to an expense of above 2,000,000 francs for the maintenance of his troops, and announces

that if the Porte does not repay him this amount, he will indemnify himself by confiscating the property of the Mussulmans in the ceded districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 124.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 834. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 29, 1879.*

BARON CALICE has informed me confidentially that the answer received from Count Khevenhüller to the representation he had been instructed to make to the Bulgarian Government about the returning Mahommedan refugees is far from satisfactory.

He does justice to the good disposition of the Prince, but says that His Highness is powerless in the matter, first from the want of funds necessary for the maintenance of so many destitute persons, and secondly, on account of the intense hatred exhibited by the Bulgarians towards their Mahommedan fellow-subjects.

Count Khevenhüller says that the events of the last few years have created a feeling of hostility against the Mussulmans, which will, he is convinced, make it impossible for them to remain in the Principality, and that an entire exodus of those who have not yet left it must inevitably take place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 836.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 29, 1879.*

I AM informed that the French Chargé d'Affaires has inquired of Baron Haymerle whether the Austrian Government would be prepared to take part in a mediation between Turkey and Greece upon the question of the frontier, which the two Governments appear to be unable to agree upon between themselves.

M. de Mouy's communication was made verbally, and he gave no written or precise intimation of the line proposed by his Government, although it is understood to have been fully communicated to the Italian Government. Baron Haymerle replied that he was quite ready to join in a mediation, and he will, I think, generally adopt the French views upon the question, without, however, taking any leading part in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 840. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December 29, 1879.*

THE Austrian Minister in Servia, having been instructed to proceed to Nisch to conduct the negotiations upon the railway question, the Imperial Government would be grateful to your Lordship if you could direct Mr. Gould to afford Baron Herbert any assistance in his power, in his endeavour to come to an agreement upon a matter that they are most desirous of arranging, but which they consider the Servian Government to be attempting to evade.

It is right that I should mention, confidentially, to your Lordship, that, though nothing of the nature of a complaint against Mr. Gould's attitude has ever been made to me, it has sometimes been touched upon in terms which show him to be regarded as not being very favourably disposed towards Austria, and stress has frequently been laid upon the greatness of the Austrian interests in Servia, and the comparative unimportance of those of Great Britain.

I have invariably answered that your Lordship has always recognized the superior interests of Austria in the Danube Principalities, and had certainly no wish to thwart them in the slightest respect, though those of England were not to be lost sight of.

With regard to the railways, Baron Haymerle says that he is the more anxious to have the question settled on account of the efforts that are being made to get them put into the hands of a Russian Company, which would no doubt receive assistance from its own Government for political purposes, which his Excellency is sure your Lordship would not like to see, any more than he would himself. I observed that some of the conditions which it was wished to impose upon Servia appeared to me sufficiently onerous to account for some hesitation in accepting them, and that by showing a disposition to modify these the Imperial Government might, perhaps, overcome the difficulty.

His Excellency replied, that though it would be indispensable to have such conditions as to make it impossible for Servia to avoid completing the lines, some modification of the project might perhaps be made, but this must be after Servia had been brought to recognize its obligations, under the engagements already taken, which it now shows a determination to repudiate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 127.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12, 1880.)

(No. 844.)
My Lord,

Vienna, December 31, 1879.

THE Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh has reported to his Government that his Turkish colleague had told him that, in the opinion of the Russian Government, an exchange of Gussinjé and Plava might advantageously be made against some territory in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

This intelligence appears to confirm Baron Haymerle in his suspicion, that the hand of Russia might be traced in the conduct of the Porte in reference to the cession of Gussinjé, and that her object is, if possible, to arrive at a modification of the eastern frontier of Montenegro, which would bring it back nearer to the line proposed by the Treaty of San Stefano.

Your Lordship will remember the determined opposition of Count Andrassy to any extension of Montenegro tending to diminish the distance separating it from Servia, and Baron Haymerle does not appear less resolute than his predecessor upon that point.

He has consequently instructed Baron Langenau to inform the Russian Government that he is convinced that the Turkish Ambassador must be mistaken in supposing them to advocate the exchange in question, as the suggestion of it could only lead to delay, and he trusted that they would continue to urge upon the Porte the necessity of a compliance with the strict terms of the Treaty of Berlin, and would support at Constantinople, as they had been doing hitherto, the efforts of Austria in urging the immediate cession of Gussinjé and Plava to the Prince of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 128.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 2, 1880.

IN answer to your inquiry I have already informed your Lordship, by telegraph, that Baron Haymerle has telegraphed to the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé that he will defer expressing any opinion upon the Prince of Montenegro's late Circular memorandum, of which he has at present only a telegraphic résumé, and that he will wait till he is in possession of the full text of the document.

He would wish the cession of Gussinjé and Plava to have been carried out before he answers it, but he says that the possession of their property being assured to the Mussulmans by European Treaty he cannot admit the Prince to have the right of confiscating it, and any claim for indemnity for the delay in ceding Gussinjé and Plava

which His Highness may think proper to make will be a matter to be debated by him and the Porte hereafter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 129.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 6, 1880.

I HAVE forwarded to your Lordship, by post, a translation from the "Neue Freie Presse" of Vienna, giving the Proclamation to be issued by Moukhtar Pasha and the Act of Cession of Gussinjé and Plava, sent to him to be signed by the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners.

Baron Haymerle says that he has nothing to object to in the Proclamation, which is in very proper terms, but that the proposed Act of Cession is altogether inadmissible, owing to the introduction into it of the clause by which Kuchi-Kraina is stated to be given up to the Porte. He says that the negotiations which have been dragging on for so long had been entirely confined to the cession of Gussinjé, and that everything will again be thrown back if the Porte now tries to make it conditional on the simultaneous abandonment by Montenegro of a district of which even the limits are not decided.

I observe that, for that matter, the boundary or frontier of Gussinjé had not been defined any more than that of Kuchi-Kraina, but his Excellency replied that with regard to the former there was no doubt or dispute, which was not the case as respects the other; and that, although the Treaty assigns the district to Turkey, it was still necessary to ascertain its limits, and till this is done the matter would not be ripe for decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 7, 1880.

I REPORTED to your Lordship yesterday that Baron Haymerle had shown some irritation at the introduction of the question of Kuchi-Kraina into the proposed Act of Cession of the district of Gussinjé and Plava, and I was not without some apprehension that he might express himself to the Porte in strong, if not unfriendly, terms upon the subject, but upon calling upon him the next morning I found that such was not the case.

I suggested that instead of objecting altogether to the clause in the Act by which it was proposed that the Montenegrin Government should announce that they abandoned Kuchi-Kraina, there might be a declaration that they would do so as soon as the limits of the district were defined.

Baron Haymerle said that he did not consider this a desirable course to follow, for the Montenegrins were full of tricks and devices, and it would require endless negotiations before they could be brought to sign such an engagement.

He would, therefore, telegraph to Constantinople, strongly urging the Porte to withdraw the clause in question from the Act of Cession, but stating, at the same time, that he saw no objection to the insertion in it of a declaration reserving the Sultan's rights to the possession of Kuchi-Kraina.

Having hitherto felt some doubt whether the Imperial Government were prepared to advocate those rights and to recognize the claim of the Porte (though the words of the Treaty on which it relies are too plain to admit of question), the language which Baron Haymerle held to-day was all the more satisfactory to me. His Excellency's language and that of Baron Calice, as already reported to your Lordship, had hitherto been chiefly to the effect that if, when the negotiations about Gussinjé and Plava first commenced, the Porte had professed its readiness to complete the cession at the same time as the restoration to it of Kuchi-Kraina, the offer would not have been unreasonable, and might fairly have been entertained, but that after the negotiations had gone so far without any talk of a simultaneous cession, it was "too late" to fall back upon it.

Baron Haymerle has now gone much further than this, for he admits that in fairness the right of the Porte to the district assigned to it by the Treaty ought not to be prejudiced by the completion of the cession that it is itself called upon to make.

No discussion, as far as I am aware, has taken place between the Porte and Montenegro or Austria about Kuchi-Kraina, and it appears so impossible that the Sultan's Government can have supposed that the Prince would agree to abandon it off-hand by signing the Act as it has been prepared by the Porte, that it will not be surprising if the clause is regarded as a means devised for ensuring further delay in the settlement of the question of Gussinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 131.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 7, 1880.

I HAVE again asked Baron Haymerle whether he would not follow the example of Her Majesty's Government by directing their Agent in Bulgaria to protest officially against the Decree respecting the title-deeds of the Mussulmans, if it is not repealed.

His Excellency repeated his objection to making what is strictly called an official protest, the rejection of which would, he conceives, make it almost necessary to follow it by some further action to which he does not see his way.

He would, however, instruct Count Khevenhüller to make an official representation to the Prince's Government against a Decree of the injustice of which he is as much convinced as your Lordship.

His Excellency appears to me to have attached an unnecessary importance to the word "protest," employed in your Lordship's instruction to Mr. Ashburnham.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 132.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord,

Rome, January 6, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 571 of the 9th ultimo, forwarding copies of the maps drawn up by the Servian Boundary Commission, for transmission to M. le Commandeur Vellini.

I have been requested by the Italian Government to convey their best thanks to Her Majesty's Government for these documents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 133.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord,

Rome, January 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Roumanian Government have proposed M. Nicolas Cretzuleseo, formerly President of the Council of Ministers, and actually Minister of Public Instruction, as the Representative of Prince Charles to the Court of Italy, and that this appointment has been accepted by the King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 134.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 18. Most Confidential.)
My Lord,

Berlin, January 10, 1880.

IT appears that Prince Charles of Roumania proposed to send M. Bratiano to Berlin to explain the various phases the railway question was undergoing at Bucharest, but Prince Bismarck having gently hinted that perhaps M. Bratiano would do better to put off his visit until after the complete settlement of the difficulty the idea has been given up, and Prince Charles has written the Emperor a letter instead, assuring His Majesty that everything would be done to promote the passage of the Berlin Convention unchanged through both Houses.

The news that the Senate at Bucharest has already passed the Bill with a sufficient majority has given great satisfaction at Berlin, and if the Chamber of Deputies confirms the vote of the Senate at the end of January, the recognition of Roumania by Germany will soon follow.

If, on the other hand, which is not at all unlikely, the Deputies reject the decision of the Senators, the rupture between Germany and Roumania will be complete and lasting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 12, 1880, 4·45 P.M.

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires communicated to me on Thursday a telegram requesting me to help to persuade the Porte to withdraw the condition that Kucki Kraina should be ceded at the same time as Gussinjé. I had already suggested to Musurus that, as one territory was defined and the other was not, there was a difficulty in mixing the questions up in the same diplomatic operation, and I so informed the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires; but it had escaped my memory that some time back Captain Sale had warned me that the Montenegrins were trying to evade the surrender of Kucki Kraina altogether, and that I had, on that ground, recommended the Turks either to procure an exchange or otherwise to protect themselves as they are doing now.

Inform Baron Haymerle of this, and say that on that ground I fear I cannot now press his view at Constantinople.

On the merits of the case, I should be sorry to make Her Majesty's Government responsible for asking the Porte to trust Prince of Montenegro, if he really meditates such a villany.

No. 136.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 16.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1880.

M. VON HENGELMÜLLER communicated to me on the 8th instant the telegram from Baron Haymerle, of which a copy is inclosed, requesting that Her Majesty's Government would support the representations which the Austro-Hungarian Representative at Constantinople had been directed to make, with the object of inducing the Porte to withdraw the conditions, which it had attached to the cession of Gussinjé, of the simultaneous cession by Montenegro of the district of Kuchi-Kraina.

I informed him that I had already suggested to the Turkish Ambassador that, as the limits of the former territory were known, while those of the latter were undefined, difficulty might arise from mixing up the two questions in the same diplomatic operation.

When I made this remark to the Turkish Ambassador it had escaped my memory that Captain Sale had, in a despatch written on the 24th November (No. 27), copy of which has been furnished to your Excellency, warned me that the Montenegrins were

endeavouring altogether to evade the surrender of Kuchi-Kraina, and that I had on that ground recommended the Turkish Government either to open a negotiation for the exchange of the two districts, or to take some other course to protect themselves against the supposed designs of the Montenegrins. This advice was given by Sir H. Layard, as reported in his despatch No. 1077 of the 7th ultimo, of which a copy has been sent to you, and the step now taken by the Porte has probably been adopted in accordance with it.

I have to request you to explain to Baron Haymerle how the matter stands, and to state to him that I fear that, under the circumstances, I cannot at present further press his view upon the Turkish Government. If, indeed, Her Majesty's Government were perfectly free to act in the matter in support of the Austrian representations, they would not willingly incur the responsibility of asking the Porte to surrender Gussinjé in the confident expectation that the Prince of Montenegro would subsequently fulfil his Treaty obligations, if it be really the case, as Captain Sale believes, that the Prince meditates retaining the district which he is bound to surrender, while insisting on his claim to the territory which he is to receive from the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 137.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, January* 12, 1880.

ARTICLE XII. Minister for Foreign Affairs is very desirous to insert, as has been done in the recent Servian Italian Consular Convention, after the first comma in the first line of the Article the following words: "and in accordance with the provisions of the XXXVIIth Article of the Treaty concluded at Berlin on the 13th July, 1878."

No. 138.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 13, 1880.

TROTTER telegraphs that Clayton leaves Van for Bashkaleh to-day; there is distress in Van itself, but no famine; several deaths from starvation in Nurday [*sic*] and about Bashkaleh, many people eating grass and roots. Everett telegraphs people dying from hunger in Bayazid, Karakilissa, and Eramos a [*sic*]: 1,000 quarters of Government grain at Baibort, but no money available for transport; great scarcity and dearness in this vilayet; deep snow everywhere, and cattle dying in places from want of fodder.

No. 139.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 13, 11 A.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January* 13, 1880, 9·15 A.M.

RUSSIAN Government, after some deliberation, has informed French Ambassador that it is ready to adhere to French proposal about Greek frontier.

No. 140.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14, 1880.)

(No. 176. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, December* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a note has been addressed to me by the Montenegrin Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, together with a memorandum, under date of the 26th instant, on the question of the surrender of Gussinjé.

This question, the note declares, has taken so serious a turn that no other means remains for its settlement than the all-powerful intervention of the Governments engaged by the Treaty of Berlin. The concluding paragraph of the note is conceived in these terms:—

"The decisions which those Governments may deem it right to take on this grave occasion is looked for by Montenegro, not only with impatience, but also with perfect trust in their wish to mete out justice and equity."

The memorandum gives a detailed account of all that has taken place on the subject of the required cession of Gussinjé-Plava, ending with the announcement that, pending the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin, the Prince's Government has thought it proper to put itself into a safe position by taking possession of all Mahommedan property existing in the districts already incorporated in the Principality, and the proprietors of which have retired to Turkey. When the Treaty of Berlin is fully executed, the Montenegrin Government will be prepared to remove the sequester on the said property, provided the Porte pays all the expenses incurred through the present complications, and which, up to now, are estimated at 2,000,000 fr.

It is admitted in the memorandum that this measure is contrary to the Treaty; but the Montenegrin Government justifies it on the ground that it compensates the shortcomings on the side of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 141.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14, 1880.)

(No. 177. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, December* 31, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 176, Political, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the note and memorandum addressed to me by the Montenegrin Government, for the purpose of communicating them to your Lordship, in order that Her Majesty's Government may take under serious consideration the position in which Montenegro has been placed, and the danger of future trouble in Albania, through the alleged shortcomings of the Sublime Porte.

I have not thought it necessary, pending the solicited consideration, to accompany my acknowledgment to the Montenegrin Government of these documents with any comments.

The memorandum is, however, setting aside the natural animus of the Principality, a fairly correct account of the progress of the Gussinjé question.

The view it gives of the Turkish claim to the district of the Kucka Kraïna is merely a repetition of the position taken up by the Montenegrin Delegates to the Boundary Commission, and is completely refuted by the topographical researches made by Captain Sale last autumn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 141.

M. Verbitza to Mr. Kirby Green.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Cettinjé, le* 26 *Décembre*, 1879.

LE Gouvernement de Monténégro, considérant l'état de ses relations avec la Sublime Porte, à la suite des complications survenues avec la question de la remise du

district de Gusinjé à la Principauté, comme présentant des difficultés qui ne peuvent être aplanies que par l'intervention efficace des signataires du Traité de Berlin, et devant prendre en même temps des résolutions d'une certaine gravité, vient de me charger de vous exposer la situation dans laquelle se trouve actuellement cette question ainsi que la Principauté elle-même.

J'ai l'honneur, en conséquence, de vous adresser, ci-joint, un Mémoire où j'expose les griefs et les droits du Gouvernement de Monténégro, Mémoire que je vous prie, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de transmettre au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, en le priant, de notre part, de prendre en sérieuse considération l'état dans laquelle se trouve en ce moment le Monténégro, de même que le danger qui résulterait pour l'avenir de troubles en Albanie, dont nous ne pourrions que faire peser toute la responsabilité sur la Sublime Porte, coupable de faiblesse sinon de connivence.

Nous attendons les résolutions que daigneront prendre les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin dans cette grave circonstance avec impatience, mais aussi avec confiance dans leur esprit d'équité et de justice.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) VERBITZA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 141.

Memorandum from Montenegrin Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Kirby Green on Gussinjé question, and step taken by Montenegrin Government to secure its interests.

Cettinjé, le 26 Décembre, 1879.

MALGRÉ les efforts du Gouvernement de Monténégro, le différend qui existe entre la Principauté et la Sublime Porte au sujet de la remise du district de Gusinjé, loin d'être aplani, est entré dans une phase qui menace de provoquer des complications sérieuses.

Depuis bientôt deux ans la paix est faite et le Traité de Berlin et signé. La Principauté serait bien en droit à présent de pouvoir s'appliquer tranquillement et en toute sécurité au développement intérieur et pacifique de ses ressources; mais, malheureusement, nous sommes forcés, comme en pleine guerre, de nous ruiner en maintenant nos troupes sous les armes, par suite de la non-exécution du Traité par la Sublime Porte.

Nous sommes obligés de nous adresser aujourd'hui aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin pour soumettre à leur appréciation cet état de choses, espérant qu'elles trouveront le moyen de faire respecter le Traité revêtu de leurs signatures, Traité dont la stricte exécution est la seule garantie de la paix et de la sécurité de notre existence.

Nous nous permettrons de tracer ici succinctement l'historique du différend qui menace de dégénérer en un conflit armé, si les Puissances n'interviennent pas avec toute l'énergie voulue pour en conjurer les conséquences désastreuses.

On sait déjà qu'après la remise de Podgoritza, qui n'a pu s'effectuer que sous la menace de la Russie ayant encore son armée à Andrinople, la Porte a répondu à notre demande de nous remettre aussi le district de Gusinjé; que nous pouvions y entrer; qu'elle n'avait pas à faire la remise d'un district complétement évacué par ses troupes régulières et abandonné par l'Administration Ottomane.

Mais, comme en même temps le Gouverneur de Scutari, Hussein Pacha, faisait tout son possible pour soulever les habitants de la Haute Albanie contre notre entrée à Gusinjé, comme il distribuait des armes et des munitions à ces habitants en les engageant à se rendre dans ce district pour opposer leur résistance armée à nos troupes, nous avons jugé prudent, afin de ne pas provoquer une effusion de sang inutile, de nous abstenir l'occupation immédiate du territoire qui nous appartenait d'après le Traité.

Nous espérions toujours que la Porte, animée du même désir que nous de terminer l'affaire à l'amiable, mettrait fin aux agissements de ses Agents dans la Haute Albanie en éloignant Hussein Pacha et en prenant énergiquement et sincèrement une attitude loyale et conforme au Traité. Cependant notre patience et notre confiance dans les bonnes dispositions de la Porte et dans la fermeté des Puissances Signataires du Traité ont eu un résultat tout-à-fait contraire à nos espérances.

Prenant notre attitude pour de la faiblesse et le silence des Puissances pour un assentiment tacite; les Albanais, encouragés de plus par les autorités locales et par

l'attitude équivoque du Gouvernement de Constantinople, continuaient leurs préparatifs pour nous résister.

Ce qui a donné surtout un élan à ces intrigues et a cette effervescence c'est la suggestion venant de la Porte d'obliger le Monténégro à renoncer à ses droits sur le district de Gusinjé en échange de certaines compensations.

C'est sous l'impression de cet état de choses que la Commission Internationale commença ses travaux de délimitation sur notre frontière du côté de l'Albanie. Dès la première réunion de la Commission ses travaux ont dû être interrompu par suite des prétentions inadmissibles des Commissaires Ottomans. Ces derniers ne voulaient tout d'abord reconnaître le tracé de la frontière fait sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien servant d'annexe au Traité; puis ils ont présenté un projet à eux de notre frontière du côté de l'Albanie complétement en désaccord avec la lettre et le sens du Traité. Tous les Commissaires Européens ont été d'accord pour considérer les prétentions de leurs collègues Ottomans comme inadmissibles; mais, au lieu de passer outre, au lieu d'annuler les objections de la Porte, dont l'unique but était d'embrouiller la question et de la rendre interminable, les Puissances ont consenti à un compromis en admettant que la délimitation entre la mer et le district de Gusinjé serait provisoire.

La Turquie a ainsi gagné du temps; les Albanais y ont encore vu un encouragement; mais, ce qui est plus grave, la Porte, en espérant faire discuter son projet de délimitation à elle, a cru pouvoir trouver dans le territoire laissé en litige par la différence des deux projets de délimitation un appoint pouvant servir, le cas échéant, de compensation pour le district de Gusinjé. La Porte comptait visiblement pouvoir garder ce district et nous offrir en échange le territoire qui nous appartenait de par le Traité, mais qu'elle nous contestait, en se basant sur quelques erreurs dans les dénominations, des localités sur la carte de l'Etat-Major Austro-Hongrois.

Ces intentions sont devenues encore plus évidents alors que la Commission Internationale a reçu une pétition demandant le retrait de Gusinjé du Monténégro, pétition signée non-seulement des habitants Musulmans de Gusinjé, mais aussi de quelques notabilités de la Haute Albanie. Comme les Commissaires Européens n'ont pas refusé de recevoir cette pétition, les Turcs ont cru que la remise de Gusinjé, bien que résolue par le Traité, pourrait encore être mise en question et devenir un sujet de négotiations devant l'Aréopage Européen lui-même.

Ce fut une nouvelle cause d'encouragement pour l'insolence des habitants de la Haute Albanie, soutenus déjà par les autorités locales et par l'attitude même de la Sublime Porte.

Ainsi, d'un côté nous n'avons pu accepter de pourparlers au sujet de compensations; d'abord, parce que dans ces suggestions nous ne voyions qu'un subterfuge pour embrouiller la question, pour ôter force de loi internationale à l'Article XXVIII du Traité; ensuite, parce que la Porte ne pouvait nous donner aucune compensation. Le Traité étant un acte international devait répondre non-seulement aux intérêts Turcs ou Monténégrins, mais encore à ceux de toute l'Europe. D'un autre côté, notre position entre paix et guerre, et ceci après les sacrifices inouïs que le pays s'est imposés durant quatre années consécutives, devenait insupportable. Cette incertitude qui absorbait nos derniers moyens devait avoir une fin.

Nous avons résolu alors d'user de nos droits et de prendre possession du territoire de Gusinjé sans nous laisser dérouter par des sentiments d'humanité si peu appréciés et ne servant qu'à encourager l'intrigue.

Nous pouvions très-facilement entrer à Gusinjé, les Albanais n'étant pas encore assez organisés ni assez ostensiblement soutenus par les forces régulières de l'Empire pour être en état d'opposer une résistance sérieuse aux troupes Monténégrines. Nous avions d'ailleurs tout le droit d'agir ainsi et en vertu du Traité et vis-à-vis de notre conscience. La Porte elle-même, après la remise de Podgoritza, nous conviait à prendre possession seuls, sans son intermédiaire, du district de Gusinjé, en nous déclarant qu'elle n'y avait rien à nous remettre.

Notre Envoyé à Constantinople a été chargé de faire une dernière tentative pour la solution pacifique du différend, et de déclarer que, si elle ne réussissait pas, nous agirions par la force.

C'est alors seulement que la Porte a changé de tactique après avoir vu qu'elle ne pouvait nous détourner de nos projets, et après avoir de nouveau essayé de renouveler les pourparlers au sujet de compensations, dont elle se gardait bien toutefois de préciser la nature et l'étendue. Elle nous a contesté le droit d'entrer à Gusinjé par nos propres moyens, et nous a déclaré que le district devait être régulièrement remis au Monténégro. La Porte fit aux Puissances la même déclaration.

Nous avons pu croire un instant à la sincérité de la Porte et à la résignation à

exécuter le Traité de Berlin. Il n'en a plus été de même quand nous avons vu que l'effervescence augmentait toujours en Albanie; que l'armement des Albanais, encouragés et secourus par les autorités locales, prenait des proportions inquiétantes; qu'enfin les agissements des employés de la province n'étaient nullement d'accord avec les promesses de la Porte.

Alors nous avons réuni sur la frontière tout le matériel nécessaire à une expédition ainsi que l'avant-garde de notre armée, dont l'entretien complet à l'infini aurait été en disproportion avec les moyens financiers de la Principauté. Cela fait, nous avons exigé la remise aussi prompte que possible, d'autant plus que chaque jour de retard augmentait les difficultés et rendaient les perspectives de conflit plus redoutable.

Au mois d'Août nous aurions pu entrer à Gusinjé presque sans coup férir, même sans l'aide du Gouvernement de Constantinople. Au commencement du mois d'Octobre il y avait déjà de sérieuses difficultés, pourtant elles n'étaient encore ni insurmontables ni bien dangereux pour nous.

Cependant la Porte, mise au pied du mur par notre résolution, trouve un nouveau moyen de retarder la solution de la question. Afin, dit-elle, d'éviter l'effusion du sang, elle s'adresse à l'intervention des Grandes Puissances pour nous obliger d'arrêter notre expédition. Elle proteste devant ces Puissances de son dessein sincère et définitif de se conformer à la lettre du Traité de Berlin; elle déclare avoir pris toutes les mesures pour remettre au Monténégro le district de Gusinjé, même s'il lui faut combattre ses propres sujets, pourvu que nous n'y entrions pas les premiers.

Nous n'avons pu ne pas déférer au désir des Puissances, qui, transmis officiellement par leurs Représentants à Cettinjé, devait nous être garant que cette fois nous ne serions pas joués. Nous avons remis notre expédition à Gusinjé jusqu'à l'arrivée de Moukhtar Pacha sur la frontière; mais nous n'avons pas caché aux Représentants chargés de la susdite mission nos soupçons et nos doutes sur l'efficacité des promesses de la Sublime Porte ainsi que la perspective de nous trouver bientôt en face de difficultés insupportables, si les promesses de la Sublime Porte n'étaient pas exécutées dans le plus bref délai.

Le travail de l'intrigue ne cessant pas, et le nombre des Albanais envoyés à Gusinjé contre nous augmentant toujours, nous risquions d'arriver à un moment où toute une guerre serait organisée en Albanie contre le Monténégro. Comme nous l'avons fait observer aux Représentants des Puissances, malgré le droit que nous avons acquis par le Traité, nous sommes obligés à d'aussi grandes dépenses qu'en pleine guerre, et chaque jour augmente nos sacrifices qui, raisonnablement, ne peuvent retomber sur le Monténégro, mais bien sur la Sublime Porte, seule responsable.

Enfin, Moukhtar Pacha a reçu l'ordre définitif de se rendre sur la frontière, et après quelques tergiversations de sa part, après avoir manifesté la crainte de subir le sort de Mehemet Ali Pacha, il s'est mis en marche de Monastir vers Prisrend. On nous a déclaré, le 24 Novembre, qu'en quinze jours il serait sur la frontière du district avec quinze bataillons de troupes régulières, et la Porte nous a demandé d'arrêter pendant ce temps la marche de nos troupes. Nous y avons consenti, et le Prince a ordonné de suspendre la concentration de notre armée sur la frontière de Gusinjé, où il n'est resté que quatre bataillons pour garder les positions avancées. Malgré une longue expérience qui aurait dû nous rendre plus méfiant, nous nous sommes liés à cette déclaration positive du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Mais, pendant que la concentration de nos troupes était contremandée, pendant que Moukhtar Pacha s'arrêtait prudemment à Prisrend, les bandes Albanaises déjà réunies à Gusinje au nombre de plus de 15,000 hommes, enhardies par nos concessions et notre patience, et ne voyant devant elles que de faibles avant-postes, ont attaqué le 22 Novembre notre bataillon établi dans le village de Velika. Un conflit sanglant en est résulté. Nos troupes de la frontière, quoique réunies avec peine, ont repoussé et défait les assaillants, qui étaient au nombre de plus de 8,000. Mais nous avons eu 250 hommes hors de combat, et ceci après la paix, quand nous avions tout le droit de nous croire en sûreté sous l'égide de l'Europe.

Ce n'est pas tout. Après avoir ordonné à notre Envoyé à Constantinople de protester et de demander à la Porte des explications sur la marche et les intentions de Moukhtar Pacha, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman lui a répondu que Moukhtar Pacha ne quitterait pas Prisrend avec ses troupes, dont il prévoyait la défection s'il ordonnait d'attaquer les fidèles sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Sa Majesté le Sultan était du même avis et ordre fut donné en conséquence de ne pas agir par la force.

C'était un refus de conformer à des promesses faites solennellement à nous et à toute l'Europe, promesses qui, seules, nous empêchaient depuis plusieurs mois de

trancher la question par nos propres moyens, alors que cela était beaucoup plus facile. C'était nous dire que si nous attaquions les bandes Albanaises de Gusinjé, nous risquions de rencontrer devant nous les troupes régulières de Sa Majesté le Sultan sous forme de déserteurs.

Nous hésitons à prendre ceci pour une déclaration de guerre ou même une simple rupture, et nous soumettons l'affaire à l'appréciation équitable des Puissances, dans l'espoir qu'elles ne souffriront pas que les résolutions d'un Traité signé par elles deviennent lettres-mortes par suite d'une manière d'agir de la Sublime Porte, dont nous venons de retracer fidèlement les phases principales,

A toutes les représentations que l'on fait au sujet du district de Gusinjé, à toutes les protestations contre l'armement et le rassemblement des Albanais dans ce district, la Porte répond qu'elle n'est pas responsable de cet état de choses, que c'est l'affaire des Albanais et non celle du Gouvernement de Constantinople.

Nous espérons que l'Europe n'admettra pas ces explications, ces excuses; qu'elle n'en rendra pas moins responsable le Gouvernement Ottoman au nom des principes du droit international, abstraction faite des encouragements et de la connivence évidente des autorités locales avec le mouvement en Albanie, qui retombent en entier à la charge de ce Gouvernement.

Si la Porte ne veut pas être responsable de ce qui se fait en Albanie contre un pays voisin et contre le sens du Traité de Paix, qu'elle abdique son pouvoir Souverain dans ce pays, qu'elle retire ses troupes et son administration; alors nous comprendrons la situation et nous saurons à quoi nous en tenir. Jusque-là nous n'avons affaire qu'à la Sublime Porte et nous devons la considérer comme responsable de ses sujets, qui viennent nous combattre les armes à la main au milieu de la paix. Nous devons la rendre responsable d'autant plus qu'ils sont à Gusinjé au nombre de 15,000, ces sujets de la Porte, et qu'ils se sont organisés en une armée presque régulière sur le sol de l'Empire. La Sublime Porte est encore responsable de cet état de choses parce qu'elle déclare ne pouvoir plus commander à ses propres troupes. Elle est responsable ou elle abdique, l'un ou l'autre.

Quant à nous, tout en soumettant l'affaire à la délibération de l'Europe, et tout en espérant que les Puissances Signataires du Traité rechercheront aussi de leur côté les moyens propres à résoudre les difficultés et à imposer à la Porte, par les démarches qu'elles jugeront nécessaires et les plus efficaces, le respect de sa propre signature, nous croyons pouvoir déclarer que le Gouvernement de Monténégro reprendra dorénavant son entière liberté d'action et ne se conformera qu'à ses intérêts.

Les Grandes Puissances trouveront qu'il est juste que nous recherchions aussi les moyens de nous indemniser des pertes et des frais que nous avons dû supporter injustement, grâce à l'attitude du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Dans ce but, nous présenterons à la Sublime Porte une demande en indemnité pour les dépenses faites à la suite des événements d'Albanie, dépenses qui se montent jusqu'à ce jour à près de 2,000,000 fr.

En attendant que le Traité soit exécuté et l'indemnité payée au Monténégro, le Gouvernement de la Principauté se voit obligé de prendre des mesures de garantie pour avoir quelque gage en vue de l'avenir. Nous déclarons donc à la Sublime Porte que, jusqu'à l'exécution définitive du Traité et jusqu'au paiement de l'indemnité des frais que nous supportons, le Gouvernement de Monténégro, quoique ce soit là une faible compensation, met le séquestre sur tous les biens des Musulmans émigrés compris sur les territoires annexés au Monténégro en vertu du Traité de Berlin.

Nous espérons que cette mesure, à laquelle nous sommes forcés de recourir bien malgré nous, ne sera pas considérée comme injuste et arbitraire par les Puissances. Les intérêts des particuliers auraient dû certainement être hors de cause dans des conflits politiques; mais les hauts Gouvernements Signataires du Traité de Berlin reconnaîtront que, par le fait des circonstances, ces intérêts sont englobés dans ce conflit. D'un côté, la Porte elle-même permet à des Musulmans en Albanie, fanatisés au nom du principe de l'Islamisme, d'agir contre nous tout en leur attribuant la qualité de particuliers; de l'autre côté, il y a des particuliers au Monténégro qui, eux aussi, ont leurs intérêts, mais qui se ruinent par suite d'un pareil état de choses. Cependant ces derniers ont bien acquis le droit au repos après une guerre victorieuse et la paix qu'ils ont cru recevoir des mains de l'Europe.

D'ailleurs, si cette mesure est une infraction au Traité de Berlin, elle ne peut être envisagée que comme conséquence d'une autre infraction au Traité que nous demandons à la Porte de réparer. Celle-ci n'a qu'à exécuter le Traité et nous payer les frais dont nous lui présenterons la liste, et le Gouvernement de Monténégro s'empressera de réintégrer les Musulmans absents dans la possession de leurs biens. Jusque-là la

Porte pourra indemniser ou entretenir ces Musulmans, qui, tous, du reste, se trouvent en Albanie et prennent une part plus ou moins directe dans l'action de cette province contre le Monténégro.

No. 142.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14, 1880.)

(No. 178. Political. Confidential.)
Scutari, December 31, 1879.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH the justification put forth in the Montenegrin memorandum on the Gussinjé question, for the seizure of the Mahommedan property, is feeble, I should not be surprised to learn that it is countenanced not only by Russia, but also by Austria and Italy. As to one it might prove a convenient precedent for its administration in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, and to the other it may be an aid in urging the Montenegrins to advance, later on, from Antivari towards the River Boyana, and thus secure the neutralization of a further stretch of coast-line, which Italy probably fears is reserved for future possession by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 143.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, January 13, 1880.*

I HAVE come to Montenegro on the excuse of attending the Prince's New Year's reception, and to observe state of affairs.

Engagement referred to in my telegram from Scutari was evidently serious reverse for the Montenegrins, and has produced painful impression in the country, which is strongly against hostilities. Prince thinks of retiring troops from the neighbourhood of Gussinjé, and evidently hopes to induce Austria to defend him against what is proclaimed as the Porte's treason.

Proposed arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro referred to in my telegram of the 10th has fallen through.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 144.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 1 ?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, January 13, 1880, 11·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 126 of the 31st ultimo, I venture to point out that, according to the interpretation put on the 2nd paragraph of Article XXXIX of Treaty of Berlin, by the Porte as well as Servia, the Joint Commission mentioned in that Article is not to take cognizance of claims of Mussulman landlords of the Principality, but merely to settle questions relating to State domains and religious foundations.

Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs has, at my demand, entered into a written engagement towards the Ottoman Minister at Belgrade to name Servian Commissioner immediately after the close of the National Assembly, which will take place shortly.

Does your Lordship wish me, under the circumstances, to again press matter?

No. 145.

Mr. Robertson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14, 10·23 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, January 14, 1880, 1·10 A.M.*

YOUR telegram of 2nd.

Grain is at famine prices here, and cost of transport to Ooroomia would be enormous. Food is comparatively cheap at Diarbekir. Would suggest reference to Consul there.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January 14, 1880, 2 P.M.*

I WAS unable to find the Minister for Foreign Affairs or Baron Calice yesterday, to communicate your Lordship's telegram No. 10, about Gussinjé, but I mentioned it last night to the Emperor.

His Majesty said that he did not quite understand it, as the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires had just reported that Sir A. H. Layard was giving him every support.

The Emperor asked me also to inform your Lordship that a telegram had just been received from the Prince of Montenegro, declaring his determination to abide by any decision that might be come to by the Powers in reference to Kucka Krajna.

No. 147.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 14, 6 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, January 14, 1880, 4·25 P.M.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12, French Minister for Foreign Affairs anxious to receive the answer of Her Majesty's Government respecting Greek frontier.

No. 148.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 14, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a telegram from the Porte, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador at this Court, containing further complaints of the persecution to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria are subjected, especially in the districts of Pravadi and Silistria.

I must request you again to bring the matter before the Prince and his Ministers, and to represent what an unfortunate impression is produced throughout Europe by accounts such as those contained in this paper. Her Majesty's Government cannot doubt that the higher authorities in the Principality are desirous of checking the evil, and they trust that there will be a proper display of energy in the measures taken for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 149.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation by Mr. Michell, from the "Official Gazette" of yesterday's date, on the subject of the Ministerial crisis in Bulgaria.

This article points out that the responsibility for the Institutions of State in the Principality rests entirely on the Assembly held at Tirnova, and that the alterations which experience now suggests would not be distasteful to the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Extract from the "Official Gazette" of December 27, 1879 / January 8, 1880

(Translation.)

Official Communication.

THE Ministerial crisis in Bulgaria and the dissolution of the Chamber by the Prince have given rise to a discussion on the subject of the Bulgarian Constitution in the Press. The Russian organs, as well as the foreign Press, have declared that the said Constitution was elaborated and granted to the Bulgarians by the Imperial Government. This opinion is at variance with the real facts of the case. It is well known that by virtue of Articles IV and V of the Treaty of Berlin it devolved on the National Assembly convoked at Tirnova to work out the Organic Statutes for the Principality. In order to facilitate and accelerate these labours, the Chancery of the Imperial Commissioner submitted to the Assembly a project of Organic Statutes as a basis for discussion. At the same time, the Imperial Commissioner declared that the final settlement of the question rested exclusively with the National Assembly. In the course of the discussions which resulted in the material alteration of many of the clauses of the project the Imperial Commissioner carefully abstained from all interference, confining himself to counsels of moderation, especially in reference to questions on the freedom of the Press and of public meetings. Thus, the responsibility for the Institutions of State existing in the Principality of Bulgaria rests entirely on the Assembly held at Tirnova, and the alterations which experience now suggests would not be distasteful to the Imperial Government, which has constantly in view the consolidation of order in the Principality, and the gradual development of its well-being.

No. 150.

Sèwas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, January 15.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 14 Janvier,* 1880.

J'AI retardé de deux jours à répondre aux télégrammes que j'ai reçus de la plupart des Représentants de la Sublime Porte à propos de l'attaque qui aurait été dirigée contre le Monténégro de la part des Albanais, voulant vous transmettre des informations précises sur les faits. Aujourd'hui je suis à même de vous donner des renseignements exacts. A cet effet, je transcris le télégramme reçu hier de Fikri Pacha, Gouverneur-Général de Kossovo :—

"Le Caïmacam d'Ipek informe que les Monténégrins ont attaqué dans la nuit du 26 du mois courant (v. s.) le village de Meta, situé à une heure de distance de Plava, et ont emporté 200 têtes environ de bétail. Le lendemain s'étant mis en marche avec des forces considérables de trois côtés différents sur Goussinjé et Plava, la population s'est empressée de leur opposer une vive résistance. Après un combat sanglant où les Monténégrins ont eu plusieurs morts et blessés, et dans lequel quarante Musulmans environ ont trouvé la mort et cinquante à soixante ont été blessés, on est parvenu à reprendre les villages de Vélikaï Pipeek et Erzanitcha que les Monténégrins avaient occupés."

D'autre part, le Caïmacam de Derana donne des informations identiques, et ajoute que, dans le combat susmentionné, un Capitaine Monténégrin a perdu la vie.

Pour vous mettre à même de repousser tout-à-fait les allégations des Monténégrins, je vous transmets également deux télégrammes, signés "Urbizza," parvenus à deux jours de distance au Chargé d'Affaires du Monténégro à Constantinople :—

"Le 8 Décembre nos informations d'Andrisivitza portent que cette nuit les Albanais à Goussinjé en grand nombre sont sortis de cette localité, marchant contre nos positions. Nos troupes ont l'ordre de se retirer à leur approche et d'éviter tout conflit. Un autre mouvement, sans doute combiné avec celui de Goussinjé, a eu lieu avant-hier du côté d'Onigovatz. Un certain nombre de Musulmans du sandjak ont franchi la Cara, et ont occupé les villages de Polia, Podrichtoch, et Riza, situés à une heure au-delà de la ligne-frontière. Nos troupes chercheront à éviter l'effusion du Sang.

"URBIZZA."

"*Le 10 Décembre.*—Dans l'engagement d'avant-hier les Albanais ont été repoussés et ont subi des pertes sensibles.

"URBIZZA."

Vous remarquerez, et vous êtes prié de faire remarquer à qui de droit que ces deux télégrammes du Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la Principauté se contredisent de la façon la plus évidente. D'après le premier, les Monténégrins évitent le combat pour ne pas provoquer une effusion de sang. D'après le second, ils repoussent les Albanais et leur font subir des pertes sensibles. Le fait est que pour la troisième fois les Monténégrins ont pénétré de force dans le territoire de Goussinjé et l'ont ensanglanté. On n'a qu'à jeter les yeux sur une carte pour constater que Velika et les autres endroits où l'engagement a eu lieu sont situés sur le territoire de Goussinjé. Du reste, le sens commun ne saurait admettre la possibilité d'une expédition de Goussignotes ayant pour but l'envahissement du Monténégro.

Je vous prie, par conséquent, de repousser de la manière la plus formelle, en vous basant sur les faits qui précèdent, les accusations mal-fondées du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité que, dans cette circonstance, comme dans toute autre, le Gouvernement Impérial agit avec la plus grande loyauté. J'aurai l'honneur de vous adresser une dépêche expliquant de nouveau toute la conduite de la Sublime Porte et appréciant la nouvelle situation que le Monténégro cherche à créer par des allégations peu fondées et les alertes successives dont il veut inaugurer le système.

No. 151.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 14,* 1880.

ON the arrival here two days ago of Prince Hassan, son of the ex-Khedive, on board Italian steamer from Brindisi, Minister of Police surrounded the vessel with boats, and went on board, stating that he had the Sultan's orders not to allow the Prince to land, but to transfer him to a Turkish vessel of war. On Prince refusing to comply, Minister of Police went to the Sultan, leaving a Colonel with some men on board as a guard on him. These were forcibly ejected by the Italian Consul and the Commander of the Italian dispatch boat. Prince was subsequently induced by Minister of Police to land, and is now the guest of one of the Sultan's Chamberlains. Italian Minister demanded an apology for violation of Italian flag, and received one to-day from Minister for Foreign Affairs.

No. 152.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Nisch, January 14,* 1880.

RAILWAY: With reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 1st instant, Servian Railway Commission with full powers leaves this in a couple of days for Vienna.

Servian Government affirm that they are ready to construct railways, but are chiefly opposed to being bound to complete Belgrade-Nisch section before beginning work upon the Nisch-Vranja section. Austrian Minister has, in my presence, made no secret of this condition being imposed on commercial grounds antagonistic to the interests of those Powers which might derive advantage from railway connection with Salonica.

I have, nevertheless, supported him generally in regard to Railway question, and believe that an agreement will easily be come to if Austria will concede above points.

(Above communicated to Sir H. Elliot.)

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1880, 3 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1119 of the 17th ultimo, I should be glad to be favoured with any observations your Excellency may have to offer upon the following telegram received yesterday from Her Majesty's Minister in Servia.*

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 35.) *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have received a copy of Mr. Michell's despatch to me No. 424 of the 28th ultimo on the subject of a law "for the prosecution of crimes committed before and during the war," which has been adopted by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia.

Mr. Michell calls attention to the provisions of the 4th Article of this law, which are liable to great abuse, and he expresses the hope that the Sultan may decide upon refusing his sanction to it.

If your Excellency has not already done so I would wish you to take an opportunity of placing before the Porte the substance of Mr. Michell's observations on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1880.

Sir,

IN the course of a conversation which I had to-day with Musurus Pasha, his Excellency pressed me very earnestly not to accept the proposal which M. Waddington has made with regard to the alteration of the Turco-Greek frontier. He pointed out several objections to its acceptance, but dwelt especially upon the impossibility of Turkey holding the south of Epirus, which was left to her, if the Pass of Metzovo, by which alone it could be conveniently reached, were excluded from her dominions.

I replied that the proposition was not one which Her Majesty's Government were likely to accept in its present form, but that nevertheless they felt strongly that some arrangement for bringing this controversy to an early termination would be very desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 4.) *Foreign Office, January* 15, 1880.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires has called upon me to ask if there is any prospect of the negotiations with respect to the Turco-Greek frontier coming to an early close.

M. Gennadius spoke with considerable bitterness of the delays to which his Govern-

* No. 144.

ment had been exposed, and appeared to think that they had serious cause of complaint. In reply, I said that I could not undertake to make any promise upon the subject, which was wholly out of the control of England.

I told M. Gennadius that I thought the delay which had occurred in the settlement of the question was due in part to the excessive pretensions which had been recently put forward by Greece, but mainly to the difficulties inherent to the subject itself. The Plenipotentiaries at the Berlin Congress, I observed, feeling unable to give to the question that exhaustive and lengthened examination which would alone have justified an imperative decision, preferred, for reasons sufficiently cogent, to leave the matter to be decided by the goodwill of the two Governments concerned, under the counsel and mediation of six European Powers. This policy rendered necessary the discovery of some solution which would be tolerably acceptable both to Turkey and to Greece; and the fact that the surrender to be demanded of Turkey was required in favour of a Power which had never been friendly to her, and which had not acquired any right to such a cession by a successful war, no doubt indisposed the Porte to make any considerable sacrifice.

It would, I said, give great satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government if Turkey and Greece could be brought to an agreement on the question, but I could not pretend to say that the present aspect of affairs foreboded an early attainment of that desirable result.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 16, 1880.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 29, 1879.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, directing me, in the event of the Austrian Agent having been instructed to urge on the Bulgarian Government the admittance of the Mussulman refugees, to make similar representations in concert with him, I called on Count Khevenhüller, who informed me that, some time previous, he had received a despatch from his Government instructing him to recommend in a friendly manner the admittance of the refugees which had been prohibited since November, as, owing to the neglect of the Porte to furnish the desired information as to the number and origin of the intending immigrants, it was too late to make any preparation for their reception, and great suffering, if not disorder, would ensue from the arrival of what is stated to be 30,000, and not 18,000, destitute individuals in a country where, owing to bad harvests and the late war, there is already great scarcity of provisions.

Count Khevenhüller informed me that as the despatch above-mentioned had crossed on the road, the one in which he had explained to his Government the reasons which had compelled the Government of the Prince to take the step of prohibiting, till the spring, the further admittance of refugees, he had taken upon himself to defer acting on these instructions, which were very vague, until further orders.

In the afternoon of the same day I inquired of some of the leading members of the Mussulman community of Sophia what was their opinion of the step taken by the Prince's Government. They all agreed that, however much they pitied the deplorable condition of their countrymen detained at the frontier, the order given was, under the circumstances, wise and humane.

The immigrants, after being exposed to great hardships and suffering in their journey over roads blocked with snow, on arriving at their villages would find their houses either destroyed or in the hands of Bulgarians.

They added that two months ago they, at their own expense, had sent back over the frontier 200 families who would otherwise have died of starvation here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 158.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16, 1880.)

No. 236.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 29, 1879.

THIS afternoon Halil Bey, formerly one of the richest Mussulman proprietors of Sophia, called on me, and presented me a petition (copy of which I have the honour to inclose) against a decision which the Commission charged with the examination of Turkish claims had lately taken, to the effect that all title-deeds must be certified to by the Bulgarian Mayors of each village surrounding the property.

Halil Bey stated that this measure, if carried out, would drive the Mussulmans, who had been here for six months wasting their time and money in vain attempts to recover their property, to despair, for as many of their farms were surrounded by from fifteen to twenty villages, and the Bulgarian Mayors in many cases refused to certify to the validity of the title-deeds except on the receipt of large sums, or on the cession of part of the farm, the expense and delays were so great that they could only be borne by the large proprietors.

He said that this measure was the more unjustifiable inasmuch as that only eight years ago a Commission, named by the Porte, had surveyed all the farms and verified the title-deeds, and that the Bulgarian Mayors had been represented on this Commission.

I promised Halil Bey that if I had an opportunity I would point out to the Bulgarian Government the injustice of the recent decision of the Commission, and at the same time I thought it my duty to telegraph to your Lordship the facts of the case, and to ask whether, in the event of my unofficial representations proving unavailing, I should protest officially against what is evidently an attempt to force the Turks to abandon their property without even receiving its value.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Halil Bey to Mr. Ashburnham.

M. le Consul-Général, *Sophia, le 29 Décembre*, 1879.

NOUS prenons la liberté d'implorer encore une fois votre aide dans le réglement de nos affaires de propriétés qui est sans cesse laissé en suspens par les autorités Bulgares.

Jusqu'à présent la Commission, qui avait été nommée par Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie pour examiner ces affaires, acceptait les titres que nous lui fournissions, et qui sont les titres que notre Gouvernement nous a remis depuis plus de huit ans. Depuis quelque temps cette Commission, après sa dissolution qui a duré pendant quelques jours, s'est réformée avec de nouveaux membres, et ne veut plus reconnaître nos titres en aucune façon, nous demandant de lui produire le certificat de chaque maire du village environnant nos champs et nos fermes. D'après nous, cette mesure nouvelle n'a été adoptée que pour nous créer des difficultés dans notre juste demande de rentrer maîtres de nos propriétés. Par exemple, il y a de nos fermes qui sont environnées par quinze ou vingt villages; la Commission exige la signature de chacun des Tchorbadjis (maires) de ces villages, qui doit attester que tous les champs dont nous possédons les titres de propriété sont vraiment notre propriété.

Il y en a parmi nous qui ont essayé d'obtenir des certificats pareils, lesquels ont oiit été refusés par les Tchorbadjis; et il y en a d'autres qui ont accepté le sacrifice de payer des sommes comme 60 pols Impériaux, ou de donner une maison à un Tchordadji pour qu'il leur donne sa signature.

Quant à ce qui regarde la justesse de nos titres de propriété, permettez-nous, M. le Consul-Général, de vous faire observer qu'il y a huit ans environ que notre Gouvernement a chargé des employés experts, qui, accompagnés par les Tchorbadjis Bulgares de chaque village, ont revu et mesuré sur les lieux toutes nos terres aux environs de Sophia; c'est sur ces données approuvées et signées par les Tchorbadjis Bulgares et faites avec la plus grande justice, que notre Gouvernement nous a changé alors nos titres de propriété contre de nouveaux, lesquels datent depuis huit ans.

Aujourd'hui les autorités Bulgares représentées par la susdite Commission ne veulent pas reconnaître ces titres à moins qu'ils soient accompagnés d'un certificat du Tchorbadji du village auquel nos terres sont limitrophes, nous pensons et nous espérons que vous penserez de même, M. le Consul-Général, que c'est une injustice sans bornes que les autorités Bulgares veulent nous faire en nous imposant cette nouvelle mesure, qui nous paraît impossible à mettre en exécution.

Nous vous supplions, M. le Consul-Général, de daigner intercéder auprès de nous pour que cette nouvelle loi n'ait pas cours et pour qu'elle soit supprimée, car nous prévoyons, qu'outre qu'elle nous coûtera des sacrifices au-dessus de nos forces, elle nous occasionnera aussi de forts délais, lesquels nous n'aurons plus le courage de supporter.

Etant assurés d'avance que vous aurez compassion, M. le Consul-Général, de notre déplorable situation et que vous intercéderez pour nous avec la générosité de sentiments que nous vous connaissons, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent 12 signatures.)

No. 159.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 1. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January* 4, 1880.

I HAVE just read a confidential letter from Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, dated the 26th ultimo, and stating that the Albanians of Ipek, Jakovo, and Gussinjé will now follow his advice, and are determined to resist the Montenegrins should they attempt to occupy the districts ceded to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 160.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that Izzet Pasha, the successor of the late Governor-General and Military Commander of the vilayet, arrived here on the 31st ultimo.

A report having preceded Izzet Pasha that he is a man of progress, the Mahommedan inhabitants of Scutari abstained from taking any marked share in the reception given to his Excellency on his arrival here; and I now learn that a petition is circulating among them for signatures, protesting against the introduction of any changes in the administration of the province.

The Mahommedan Albanians are evidently about to renew their policy of intimidating the Ottoman authorities, which was suspended on the sudden and suspicious death of Ali Haidar Pasha; and if Izzet Pasha fails to take immediate and energetic measures against the three or four leaders of this policy, he will necessarily quickly become a mere cypher in the government of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 161.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 5, 1880.

IT is now a month since Moukhtar Pasha arrived at Prisrend, and he is reported to be still there.

From natives I learn that if he had advanced on to Jakovo and Ipek immediately he would have met with no opposition, but that now, having clearly shown his disinclination

to use coercive measures, the Albanians have lost all fear of him and his troops, and that probably opposition would be encountered if he attempted to proceed forwards.

The eleven battalions concentrated at Prisrend are said not to number more than 4,000 men, and owing to their scanty clothing and poor nourishment are being rapidly reduced by sickness and death.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 162.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 15, 1880.

SULTAN has sent to tell me that he considers it very desirable that Prince Hassan should not remain in Constantinople, as his presence here would give rise to intrigues. His Majesty offered to allow him to reside in Crete, but he declines, and wishes to live in Egypt. His Majesty would be very grateful to you if you would not object to his doing so, on condition that he undertakes to live in complete retirement, and not to interfere in political affairs.

No. 163.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 16, 4·20 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, January* 16, 1880, 2 P.M.

GIERS announced to me yesterday that the present peace establishment of the army is to be reduced by 36,000 men. He admitted, however, that there would be no corresponding reduction in the army estimates, as after a great war such a large amount of artillery and war material of all kinds had to be replaced.

No. 164.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 1880.)

(No. 430. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a Report which was made to the Governor-General on the 30th ultimo by M. Schmidt and Dr. Vulcovitch on the subject of the necessity of constructing a provincial railway between Bourgas and Philippopoli, and of coming to the assistance of the agricultural classes, by means of funds to be derived from the issue of a provincial loan.

The arguments and data on which the project for the construction of a railway from Bourgas to Philippopoli are based prove conclusively the advantage of such a line from a commercial and economic point of view, to which, I firmly believe, the strategic facilities which the line is no doubt capable of affording are, so far as M. Schmidt's views are concerned, entirely subsidiary and unintentionally contingent, notwithstanding that the only prominent and apparently serious tender for the construction of the line in question proceeds from M. Maréchal, whose name is well known to your Lordship in connection with a contract for the farming of the tithes in this province under the administration of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff.

The expediency of granting State aid, in the form of advances, to the agricultural classes, is shown in the accompanying Report with equal force and clearness, the estimated amount of such relief being 5,000,000 fr.

In order to supply the means for the construction of the Bourgas-Philippopoli line and for the succour of the agricultural classes, it is proposed, in the accompanying Report, to issue a provincial loan, of which the annual charge would be £ T. 90,000.

It is, at the same time, estimated that this annual charge will be more than balanced (to the extent of £ T. 46,000) by the prospective results of the application of such a loan and by an anticipated augmentation of the provincial revenue.

The Provincial Assembly has, however, avoided the discussion of the project, being apparently unwilling to burden the country with a public debt at the outset of its career.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 165.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 6, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram, *en clair*, of this date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the following additional particulars in respect to the seizure of the Greek Church of St. Paraskevi, last night, by a Bulgarian mob, assisted by Bulgarian militiamen:

The church in question has, up to the present time, belonged to the Greek Patriarchate at Constantinople, and is endowed with property in shops, &c., for its support, as well as for that of a school and hospital.

During the early part of the Russian occupation the Bulgarian community endeavoured, through Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, to obtain possession of the church, on the ground that many persons now belonging to the Bulgarian Church had contributed towards its erection.

The Greek Archbishop replied to the summons addressed to him by Prince Dondoukoff by referring his Excellency to the Greek Patriarch at Constantinople, under whose immediate jurisdiction the church had been placed.

The question was not reopened until last night, when, by a movement which had evidently been preconcerted, a number of Bulgarians of the lower class, accompanied by 100 to 150 militiamen without their arms, surrounded the church as the bells began to ring for matins on the morning of the Greek Christmas and took away the keys from the Sacristan, who was subsequently ejected from the court-yard of the church by some gendarmes, one of whom struck him twice on the back with the flat part of his bayonet. Meanwhile, some armed policemen stationed themselves at the door of the house of the Greek priest attached to the Church of St. Paraskevi, and prevented him from leaving it.

The church premises having been secured by gendarmes and militiamen placed at all the doors of the wall by which the church is inclosed, a Bulgarian priest, accompanied by a choir, proceeded to perform divine service.

Persons who presented themselves at the doors were sent away if, in reply to the question put to them by the gendarmes, they declared that they were Greeks.

The Prefect of Police and the Sub-Prefect arrived somewhat later, and confined themselves to exhorting the Bulgarian populace to keep quiet.

Towards 5 in the morning, however, the church was cleared, a seal put on the door, and the keys taken away to the konak, in compliance, probably, with orders which had been issued by the Governor-General.

A guard of twenty-five militiamen was placed in the court-yard by order of General Streeker, who likewise caused the streets to be patrolled by cavalry during the whole of the day.

About midday these facts were brought to my notice by one of the leading members of the Greek community, who came to consult me in behalf of his co-religionists as to whether a strong demonstration should at once be made at the konak. I was assured that a large concourse of Greeks had assembled at the konak of their Archbishop, and that it might be difficult to prevent a tumult, many Greeks being apparently determined to retake the church by force at all risks.

I strongly advised the Greeks to abstain from illegal acts, and to confine themselves to the sending of a deputation to the Governor-General.

This advice was followed, but the Governor-General having refused to surrender the keys of the church, on the ground that he was afraid of the populace, and having added that he would cause an inquiry to be instituted into the circumstances under which the church had been seized, the Greek notables determined to address to the Consular Representatives of the Great Powers the protest and appeal of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Whilst this document was in course of preparation the Greeks assembled at the house of their Archbishop, proceeded in a body to the konak, and a certain number of them obtained an interview of the Governor-General, who, however, only repeated what

he had previously stated to the deputation of Notables. These deputies spoke in very strong terms to the Governor-General of the treatment to which they were subjected, and threatened to make their grievances known to Europe.

The Governor-General replied to these threats, which included a determination to defend their own rights, by telling them that they might do as they liked.

On leaving the konak some of the Greeks were ill-treated by gendarmes, who also endeavoured to make some arrests, but they were prevented from doing so by some officers who happened to be present.

I have summoned a meeting of the Consular Body, at midnight, in order to consider the attitude that should be assumed in view of the appeal that has been made to it, and of the urgency and importance of the incident which gave rise to that appeal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Protest of the Greek Notables of Philippopoli.

M. le Consul-Général,

UN fait inouï dans les annales des nations civilisées s'est passé la nuit dernière dans notre ville.

Une foule de Bulgares, aidés par des agents du Gouvernement, ayant envahi vers 3 heures du matin, heure de la messe de Noël, la cour de l'Eglise Patriarcale de St. Paraskevi, et entouré les maisons des prêtres Grecs et du sacristain, a pris de force cette église; et tandis que des soldats et des gendarmes Bulgares gardaient les portes et empêchaient les Grecs d'y entrer, ils ont installé un prêtre schismatique qui a célébré l'office divin.

Cet acte vandale, commis sous les yeux du Gouvernement et avec l'assistance de ses agents, a produit à la population Grecque la plus triste impression, et il nous a démontré une fois de plus que même le libre exercice de notre culte n'est pas assuré dans ce pays, dans lequel la race prédominante se fait un jeu de spolier et de s'approprier les biens d'autrui, et ne recule devant aucun moyen pour Bulgariser la province par l'extermination complète des minorités.

Le Statut Organique, comme vous savez, par les Articles 28 et 31, assure le libre exercice des différents cultes en les protégeant sans distinction, et garantit à chaque communauté la possession de ses immeubles. Cependant, bien que nous ayons averti à temps le Gouvernement, la restitution de l'église, celui-ci non-seulement n'a pas cru nécessaire de nous donner une réponse, mais il a procédé à l'apposition des scellés aux portes de l'église, reconnaissant de cette façon implicitement des droits aux assaillants; car autrement il aurait dû immédiatement rendre l'église à ses possesseurs légitimes et punir les coupables.

Devant cet état de choses, au nom de la population Grecque nous protestons contre cet acte de barbarie, et nous croyons de notre devoir de dénoncer aux Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin la conduite partiale du Gouvernement, conduite qui peut provoquer des scènes fâcheuses, dont dès à présent nous lui laissons toute la responsabilité. En même temps nous sollicitons votre intervention afin que justice nous soit rendue, et nous avons la ferme conviction que les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du dit Traité, qui ont la mission de surveiller l'exécution du Statut Organique, ne nous refuseront pas l'intervention demandée, et qu'ils auront informés leurs Gouvernements du danger que courent les races non Bulgares par le fait de la conduite partiale et injuste du Gouvernement de cette province.

Dans l'espoir que vous vous empresserez de nous venir en aide pour protéger notre honneur, notre fortune, et même notre vie menacée, nous avons l'honneur, &c.

La Démogerondie,
(Signé) DR. WLADOS.
Z. NEMZIOGLOS.
D. J. ARGYRIADES.
ATH. GHUMUCHGHERDAN.
ANDONOGLOU.
DR. ANTONIADES.
N. KENDINENOGLOU.
AR. STOILADIS.
R. G. BOGAZLI.

Philippopoli, le 25 Décembre, 1879.

No. 166.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17.)

(No. 2. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 3, 1880.

ON the 22nd ultimo I had the honour to describe to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 85, a disturbance which had occurred in the town of Candia about the right of the Christians to carry a flag at the Feast of St. Nicholas. From information which I have since received, both from the Vice-Consul and the Vali, the affair had a graver character than I had been led to believe. It appears that the Mussulmans had made a most determined attack upon the church as the procession was issuing from it, wresting the bayonets from the hands of the soldiers placed to guard it, and several of them being wounded in the fray. Emissaries had also been sent to different districts inhabited by Mussulmans, urging them to join their brethren in the town for the purpose of putting down the Christian Ghiaours. It is remarkable that this appeal was not listened to, the villagers openly declaring that they would no longer be made the dupes of intriguers, for they were well aware that by espousing the townsmen's quarrel they would be running the risk of being driven from their homes. The Christian peasantry on their part sent a deputation to the authorities of Candia to warn them that, if the Mussulman villagers showed signs of hostility, they would take their own steps to bring them to order. It is probable that a knowledge of this proceeding contributed not a little to the pacific attitude of the latter.

It was six days before the weather moderated sufficiently to allow of the Vali and the Commander-in-chief, Nedjib Pasha, going down to Candia. Depositions taken by the Procureur-Général elicited the fact that two of the principal Mussulmans of that town, both of them members of the Administrative Council, were the chief instigators of the attack against the Christians. The first act of the Vali was to have them arrested. The same day, towards evening, the large mosque of the town, which is close by the konak where the Vali was staying, began to fill with an excited crowd numbering some 1,500 persons, who chose two deputies to demand that the prisoners seized that morning might be admitted to them in the mosque. His Excellency acted with judicious firmness. He sent word that if in ten minutes they did not disperse force would be employed to make them do so. At the expiration of that time a battalion of soldiers who were held in readiness received orders to enter the mosque with fixed bayonets. At the sight of the advancing soldiery there was a general flight, and all opposition was at an end. Further investigation implicated another Mussulman Notable, a Judge of the Court of First Instance, in having provoked the meeting at the mosque, and he, too, was arrested.

Having thus secured the ringleaders, Photiades Pasha took great pains to persuade the Mussulmans of the unprovoked nature of the assault made on the church, as well as of the harmlessness of the flag employed. The latter pourtrayed merely the representation of St. Nicholas crowned, as is the manner of saints, together with the inscription, "The Corporation of Shoemakers," of which he is the Patron Saint. The better to convince them, he caused the banner to be displayed in the konak, and the Mussulman inhabitants to defile before it, while he sat by to explain its meaning. Great surprise was expressed by all; for, being entirely ignorant of the Greek characters, they had been persuaded into the belief by the designing persons now under arrest that the inscription ran, "Union with Greece," and that the crowned saint was King George.

Before leaving Candia Photiades Pasha held a general meeting of the Notables of both creeds, and impressed on them the mutual advantages to be derived from living together in harmony, and the folly of provoking religious hatred. The best spirit prevailed at the meeting, the Cadi and some religious Sheikhs present spontaneously embracing the Archbishop and other Christian Notables. It is well known that the arrested persons had long exercised a sort of terrorism over the rest of the community, as they had much of the rabble at their command, and the well-disposed and peaceably-inclined were overawed by their influence. I have frequently remarked in recent communications on the elan exhibited by the town Mahommedans at the loss of the political ascendency formerly enjoyed by them owing to the late arrangement between the Christian insurgents and the Porte. In Rethymo, Candia, and here, the Mussulmans are banded together in religious fraternities of Dervishes, which are in close relations with each other, and the objects of which are mainly political. It is supposed that the attack against the Christians, which has happily failed, owing to

the protection afforded by the troops, was organized by these fraternities with the hoped-for result of intimidating the authorities.

It is a fortunate circumstance that the Vali found in Nedjib Pasha a firm coadjutor at a critical moment. There is little doubt that, but for his cordial and prompt co-operation, his Excellency could not have established his authority, and Candia would have been handed over to the power of the disaffected Mussulman populace. The sudden recall of Nedjib Pasha, and the appointment of Salih Pasha in his place, which I have had the honour to report in my despatch No. 4 of to-day's date, seems, considering that General's antecedents in Crete, an ill-omened proceeding.

Photiades Pasha returned to this town on New Year's Day, bringing with him a dozen prisoners (two of them Christians), all of whom will be tried by the ordinary Tribunal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 167.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)
Canea, Crete, January 3, 1880.

My Lord,

AS soon as Photiades Pasha returned from Candia, his proceedings at which town I had the honour to report in my preceding despatch, he received a telegram from the First Minister to this effect:—

"By Imperial command you are invited not to inflict any punishment on those concerned in the late disturbance at Candia before communicating with us."

On the receipt of this telegram his Excellency telegraphed thus:—

"The prisoners are now undergoing their trial, and when it is over I shall not fail to communicate to your Highness the finding of the Court and the punishment inflicted, if they are proved guilty."

Photiades Pasha, who gave me this news confidentially, assured me that the telegram would not affect in the slightest degree the fate of the prisoners, which he considered as no longer in his hands, but in those of the judicial authorities, who would do their duty without fear or favour.

There are now in Constantinople two leading Cretan Mussulmans, one from Candia and the other from Canea, the latter being constantly seen at the Palace in the company of Osman Pasha. The recall of Nedjib Pasha, who acted so energetically against the Mussulmans of Candia, as well as the sending of the telegram noted above, are probably due to this man's influence. He is also the intimate friend of the new Commander-in-chief, Salih Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 168.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 4. Political.)
Canea, Crete, January 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a Confidential despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard on the subject of the appointment of Salih Pasha as Commander-in-chief in Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Canea, Crete, January 3, 1880.

Sir,

HAVING to-day been informed by Photiades Pasha that the Commander-in-chief, Nedjib Pasha, had been recalled to Constantinople, and that Salih Pasha had been appointed in his room, I thought it important to acquaint your Excellency with the fact, which I did by the following cyphered telegram:—

"The Commander-in-chief at Salonica, Salih Pasha, has been appointed Commander-in-chief here. As he is a Cretan Mahommedan the selection is injudicious."

Your Excellency will remember that this soldier commanded in Crete during the last insurrection; that he closely allied himself with the most retrograde class of Mussulmans; that he released all the Mussulman prisoners confined in the gaol of Rethymo, and that instead of seconding Costaki Pasha in his efforts to pacify the island, he did all in his power to disturb it. Being born and bred in Crete, as well as married here, he cannot free himself from local prejudices, as was plainly proved by the part he took when in command here in 1878.

Unless the Civil Governor can dispose absolutely of the services of the Military Governor, there is likely to arise, when critical circumstances occur, a conflict of authority which may put in jeopardy the peace of the island.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 169.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 30.)
Paris, January 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that M. de Freycinet asked Mr. Adams whether I had received any communication from Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposal of his predecessor in regard to the Greek frontier, and that he expressed himself as anxious to be put in possession of their answer to these proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 170.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 16 Janvier, 1880.

My Lord,

JE m'empresse de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, copie d'une dépêche télégraphique que je viens de recevoir de son Excellence Sawas Pacha au sujet de la question Hellénique, et je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner sans retard à son Excellence Lord Lyons des instructions conformes au désir du Gouvernement Impérial.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 171.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 17.)

(Telegraphic.)
Cettinjé, January 16, 1880.

ALTHOUGH Montenegrin Government has declined to give me positive assurances that it will abstain from hostilities at Gussinjé, it has withdrawn its troops to its former frontiers, and General Petrovic has returned here, as operations are considered impossible until the spring. Season will also possibly prevent Albanians from advancing.

Turkish Minister here proposes going for a short time to Scutari, and I think his

presence there may help to lead Albanians to believe in suspension of Montenegrin movement.

If nothing can be done during present respite to solve the Gussinjé question, serious hostilities must be counted upon in the early spring.

No. 172.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 12:30 P.M.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 17, 1880, 11·10 A.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that M. Freycinet, on being asked by Greeks to support line proposed by M. Waddington, replied that he would take no decision until he could consult Lord Lyons. His Excellency earnestly hopes that you will not support that line, as the Porte cannot accept it. He says that M. Giers told the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh that Russia only agreed to it on pressure of France, because she looked upon it as a "Platonic line."

No. 173.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, *noon.*)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 17, 1880, 11·12 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 16.

I am of opinion that second paragraph of Article XXXIX of Treaty of Berlin does apply to claims of Mussulman landlords of the Principality, and such is the view taken by Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who says that Turkish Commissioner must be under misapprehension, and that he will receive instructions on the subject at once.

No. 174.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 3 P.M.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 17, 1880, 1 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt, dated yesterday:—

"Recent letters from North Albania state that serious conflicts have occurred at Plava between the Albanians and Montenegrins, resulting in defeat of Montenegrins; that the Albanians will not listen to Moukhtar Pasha, and that they have disarmed a brigade of advanced battalion of Turkish infantry marching on Ipek, where they have been, it is said, by order of Moukhtar."

I would strongly recommend our having an efficient Agent at Prisrend, to watch and report further proceedings, which threaten to become plainly serious.

No. 175.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 17, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, January* 17, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

DIRECTOR of Finance has departed evidently disappointed, having been urged by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to withdraw his resignation.

Private considerations appear to impel him to take latter course, but it seems extremely desirable that he should only yield to pressure of Powers. In such a case he would withdraw ground of resignation on condition of Governor-General accepting strict terms of programme based on Treaty of Berlin. I have, meanwhile, advised him to maintain a firm attitude and decline solicitations of Governor-General.

The Austrian Consul [?] was instructed to induce him not to resign, but he has already done so.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 176.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 19. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOUR No. 24.

It is impossible for England to refuse blankly what is proposed by the whole of Europe. The conduct of the Porte in respect to the Greek negotiations has deprived us of any ground for promising that more delay would lead to a solution. Nor has the conduct of the Porte upon other matters made it possible to bespeak the indulgence of English opinion towards it.

We shall not accept the French proposition, but we shall probably propose the reference of the whole question to a Commission nominated by the Signatory Powers, to whose decision, as far as we are concerned, we shall defer.

No. 177.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 44. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1880.

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 24 of this day that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has expressed an earnest hope that the line of frontier between Turkey and Greece proposed by M. Waddington may not receive the support of Her Majesty's Government.

I have to state to you, in reply, that it is impossible for England to offer a blank refusal to what is proposed by the whole of Europe.

The proceedings of the Porte in respect to the Greek negotiations have deprived Her Majesty's Government of any ground for holding out a promise that further delay would lead to a solution of this question. Nor has the conduct of the Ottoman Government in regard to other questions made it possible to bespeak for it the indulgence of English opinion.

Her Majesty's Government are not disposed to accept the frontier proposed by M. Waddington, and they will probably suggest that the whole question shall be referred to a Commission to be nominated by the Powers parties to the Treaty of Berlin, to whose decision they were disposed to defer, as far as this country is concerned.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 178.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 47.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 17, 1880.

THE French Ambassador asked me on the 10th instant whether Her Majesty's Government were prepared to give any reply to the proposition which M. Waddington had made just before leaving office upon the subject of the frontier of Greece. I answered that the reply in question presented unusual difficulties in consequence of the proposition of M. Waddington having been made without any accompanying reasons to explain the departures which he proposed from the recommendations of the Berlin Congress.

The brevity of his communication in this respect imposed upon Her Majesty's Government the duty of examining more fully for themselves the precise effect which the proposed alterations would have. I trusted to be able in a few days to address to him a written reply, explaining the views of Her Majesty's Government on this question. At

the same time I intimated that our impression was adverse to the proposition which the French Ambassador had communicated.

The territory which it was proposed to assign to Greece appeared to be, as far as I could judge, considerably in excess of the area suggested at Berlin; and the new project did not entirely escape from the Albanian difficulty, which had been the chief impediment to the adoption of the solutions hitherto proposed. The conflicts which at that moment were taking place at the other end of Albania showed that apprehensions based upon the national spirit and independence of the Albanians were not entirely chimerical.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 179.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18, 1880.)

(No. 428.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December 31, 1879.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 250 of the 13th September, and to the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's despatch No. 62 of the 9th October, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the correspondence that has passed between the Governor-General and the Consular Representatives of Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Greece, and Italy on the subject of the non-existence of Mixed Tribunals in this province.

The demand for the recognition of the rights of aliens in this respect has not yet been supported by the Russian Consulate-General.

In September last Prince Tzeretelew laid down as an "ultimatum," both in respect to his co-operation with the Consular Body, and as regards the effective exercise of his influence with the Local Government, that his colleagues should be content with the admission of one foreign Assessor instead of two (according to the established practice in other parts of the Ottoman Empire) on the trial of suits between aliens and natives.

The Consular Body refused to accept the conditions thus offered, and, on the strength of subsequent instructions, addressed a categorical demand to the Governor-General for the re-establishment of a judicial practice which had only ceased with the Russian occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

After the receipt of the reply made by the Governor-General to that demand, and in which the latter was practically rejected, a consultation was held as to the terms in which the Consular Representatives should demonstrate the futility of the arguments used by the Governor-General, on the strength of a report drawn up by the Secretary-General, and reiterate their demands for the re-establishment of Mixed Tribunals in Eastern Roumelia, in conformity with usages based on the Capitulations and consecrated by the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

On this occasion the Russian Consul-General was prevented from joining his colleagues in a common course of action, owing to the absence of instructions from the Imperial Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 179.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le 10 Décembre, 1880.*

EN me référant à l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, et aux offices qui ont été adressés à votre Excellence par mes collègues, les Consuls d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grèce, et d'Italie, j'ai l'honneur de porter à sa connaissance que j'ai reçu du Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté Britannique pour les Affaires Etrangères l'ordre d'insister sur l'exacte observation des stipulations contenues dans les Capitulations avec la Sublime Porte, ainsi que de tous autres droits qui peuvent être réclamés par les sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique, en vertu soit des Traités, soit des coûtumes générales en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Il m'a été en même temps prescrit de veiller à ce que les sujets Britanniques ne

soient pas placés dans la Roumélie Orientale dans une position moins favorable que celle dont ils jouissent dans d'autres parties des Etats de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

En signalant par conséquent à votre Excellence que, depuis la cessation de l'administration Russe dans cette province, il n'existe plus dans cette ville un Tribunal pour les causes mixtes, j'ai l'honneur de la prier de vouloir bien ordonner au plus tôt le rétablissement d'une pareille pratique judiciaire, sur la base des droits et usages susénoncés, et qui sont consacrés par le Traité de Berlin, et par l'Article 20 du Statut Organique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 179.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le 30 Novembre / 12 Décembre 1879.

J'AI reçu votre office en date du 10 Décembre courant, et j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre en réponse le Rapport, ci-inclus, de M. le Secrétaire-Général, formulant notre opinion relativement à la question de l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale.

Ce Rapport a été également communiqué, M. le Consul-Général, à vos honorables collègues, les Consuls d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de Grèce, et d'Italie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 179.

M. Crestavitch to Aleko Pasha.

Altesse, *Philippopoli, le 5 Novembre, 1879.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir vos deux offices, du 16 Août et du 12 Octobre, par lesquels vous me donniez l'ordre d'examiner deux lettres de quelques Consuls, qui, en se basant sur l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, demandent l'admission dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale de deux Assesseurs étrangers, quand il y aurait un différend à examiner entre indigènes et étrangers.

D'après ce que je sais, dans l'examen des différends de ce genre, les Capitulations ou Traités et Conventions ne donnent aux Consuls d'autre droit que celui d'y assister soit personnellement, soit par leurs Drogmans.

Quant à l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux Turcs, je n'ai pas eu l'occasion de connaître un acte de Convention ou d'entente y relatif entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères, sauf le cas où ces Consuls voudraient donner le nom à une habitude qui s'est introduite il y a quelques années dans l'Empire Ottoman, et qui consiste en ce que des Assesseurs étrangers assistent seulement dans les Tribunaux de Commerce pendant l'examen d'affaires mixtes.

Or, dans les Tribunaux Civils ou Criminels de Première Instance, ainsi que dans ceux d'Appel ou de Cassation en Turquie, je ne vois aucune occasion ou exemple d'assistance d'autres étrangers que les Consuls ou leurs Drogmans, et comme le Statut Organique n'a pas prévu des Tribunaux de Commerce en Roumélie Orientale, mais seulement des Tribunaux Civils et Criminels, je doute beaucoup du droit que prétendent avoir les dits Consuls d'y envoyer des Assesseurs au lieu de leurs Drogmans.

En vertu de quoi je crois, que pour la décision de cette question, il faut préalablement demander aux dits Consuls quel acte de Convention ou d'entente dont l'Article 20 du Statut Organique fait mention (sauf les Capitulations), ils pourraient citer comme passé entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères relativement à l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Secrétaire-Général,
(Signé) CRESTAVITCH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 179.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Décembre*, 1879.

EN accusant réception de l'office que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le $\frac{30 \text{ Novembre}}{12 \text{ Décembre}}$, je regrette de constater que l'opinion émise dans le Rapport de M. le Secrétaire-Général relativement à la question de l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale ne s'accorde nullement avec ma propre appréciation des droits réservés aux sujets étrangers dans cette province par le Traité de Berlin et le Statut Organique.

Les données et arguments sur lesquels cette appréciation est fondée se trouvant consignés dans les offices qui viennent d'être adressés à votre Excellence par mes collègues d'Autriche-Hongrie et de France, il me paraît inutile de les reproduire ici.

Je me borne donc à signaler mon entière adhésion aux vues exprimées à votre Excellence sur ce sujet tant par mes collègues déjà cités que par mes collègues les Consuls de Grèce et d'Italie, et de réitérer les représentations que j'ai déjà faites auprès de votre Excellence sur l'urgence de l'établissement de Tribunaux Mixtes selon la pratique judiciaire qui est en vigueur dans le reste de l'Empire Ottoman.

(Signé) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 179.

M. Cingria to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le 21 Octobre*, 1879.

L'ARTICLE 20 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale, d'après lequel les Traités, Conventions, et Arrangements internationaux conclus ou à conclure entre la Porte et les Puissances étrangères sont applicables dans la Roumélie Orientale comme dans toute l'Empire Ottoman, établit en même temps que les immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers seront respectés dans cette province.

Comme il est connu à votre Excellence, il figure par mices priviléges aussi le droit des sujets étrangers de voir siéger dans les Tribunaux appelés à statuer sur des différends entre les indigènes et les sujets étrangers, deux Juges Assesseurs appartenant à leur nationalité, soit qu'ils y interviennent dans la qualité de demandeurs que dans celle des défenseurs.

Ces formations spéciales de Tribunaux en matière judiciaire mixte, étant l'expression des besoins réciproques dans les multiples relations commerciales entre les sujets étrangers et les indigènes, a été couronnée partout en Turquie du plus heureux succès, puisque elle rassure tous les intérêts et favorise la prompte expéditive des affaires entre indigènes et étrangers.

Le Gouvernement Provisoire pendant l'occupation de cette province par l'armée Impériale Russe, reconnaissant l'utilité d'une telle pratique judiciaire, en a admis sans conteste l'application. Ce n'est qu'après l'inauguration du nouvel ordre des choses dans cette province que l'application de cette pratique salutaire est restée en souffrance.

Le Soussigné n'a pas omis d'attirer à plusieurs reprises l'attention de M. le Directeur de la Justice *ad interim* sur cette circonstance. Ce dernier en accueillant favorablement mes représentations à ce sujet n'a pas cru pouvoir donner une réponse définitive à cet égard en faisant entrevoir la nécessité d'une entente préalable du Corps Consulaire sur une question qui touchait d'une manière égale les intérêts de tous les sujets des Grandes Puissances domiciliés dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Des notes analogues que votre Excellence aura reçues de la part de mes collègues sur cette question ne manqueront pas de la convaincre de leurs sentiments unanimes sur le besoin impérieux de faire revivre aussitôt que possible une pratique judiciaire réclamée par les intérêts de leurs nationaux et dont l'utilité est généralement reconnue.

J'aime à espérer que votre Excellence aura la complaisance de prendre en considération les observations que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui exposer, et voudra bien aviser aux mesures nécessaires à ce que la pratique judiciaire en matière des causes mixtes dont il est question dans mon présent office, soit le plus tôt possible remise en vigueur.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) CINGRIA.

Inclosure 6 in No. 179.

M. Cingria to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 16 Décembre, 1879.

EN réponse à mon office en date du 8 Octobre, avec lequel je demandais la remise en vigueur de la pratique judiciaire en matière des causes mixtes, le Gouvernement Général de la Roumélie Orientale m'a adressé copie d'un Rapport que le Secrétaire-Général a soumis dans cet argument à votre Excellence.

Dans ce Rapport le Secrétaire-Général dit ignorer un acte de Convention ou d'entente y relatif entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères, sauf le cas où les Consuls voudraient donner ce nom à une habitude qui s'est introduite dans l'Empire Ottoman et qui, d'après lui, consisterait en ce que les Assesseurs étrangers assistent seulement dans les Tribunaux de Commerce pendant l'examen d'affaires mixtes, et propose en même temps de faire demander à ces Consuls quel Acte de Convention ou d'entente dont l'Article 20 du Statut Organique fait mention ils pourraient citer comme passé entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères, relativement à l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale.

Je dois constater en premier lieu, que dans ma lettre du 8 Octobre j'ai demandé la remise en vigueur de la pratique judiciaire d'après laquelle les sujets étrangers ont le droit de faire siéger deux Juges-Assesseurs de leur nation dans le Tribunal appelé à statuer sur les causes mixtes, droit qui constitue un privilége acquis aux étrangers et consacré par l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, en exécution de l'Article XX du Traité de Berlin, qui dit que les immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers, quelle que soit leur condition, seront respectés dans la Roumélie Orientale.

En demandant la remise en vigueur d'une pratique judiciaire relative aux causes mixtes existant dans l'Empire Ottoman, j'ai cru avoir obvié à toute équivoque sur la portée de ma demande, puisque cette pratique y existe seulement en matière civile devant les Tribunaux du Tidjaret appelés à juger les contestations entre indigènes et étrangers.

D'autre part, les attributions juridictionnelles des Tribunaux Mixtes qui, à l'exception des différends ayant pour objet les contestations en matière de location, ainsi que les questions se rattachant aux immeubles, s'étendent en outre aux causes commerciales à toutes les contestations, entre indigènes et étrangers, qui surpassent en principal la somme ou la valeur de 1,000 piastres, sont connus au Secrétaire-Général qui, pendant de longues années, était à Constantinople le Président d'un pareil Tribunal.

Il lui est sans doute également connu que les Assesseurs étrangers n'y assistent pas seulement pendant l'examen d'affaires mixtes, comme il le prétend dans son Rapport, mais qu'ils y ont une voix délibérative et les mêmes droits que les Juges indigènes.

Du reste, si de l'aveu du Secrétaire-Général une habitude spéciale relativement aux causes mixtes entre indigènes et étrangers s'était introduite dans l'Empire Ottoman, il est incontestable que cette habitude qui, depuis son introduction, s'y est constamment maintenue, et était même par le passé observée dans la Roumélie Orientale, doit pour cette raison, en base de l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, être remise en vigueur dans cette province, qui forme partie de l'Empire Ottoman.

Si malgré tout ce que je viens de dire le Secrétaire-Général avait pu encore concevoir des doutes sur l'exercice de ce droit de la part des étrangers établis dans la Roumélie Orientale, se sont les dispositions analogues du Traité de Berlin relativement aux Etats dont il a proclamé l'indépendance, qui aurait dû le convaincre du contraire, puisque dans aucun cas les droits et priviléges des étrangers basés sur les usages ne pouvaient pas être plus restreintes dans la Roumélie Orientale qu'ils ne le sont dans les susdits Etats.

Il est connu au Secrétaire-Général de la Roumélie Orientale le contenu de l'Article VIII du dit Traité, qui établit que les immunités et priviléges des sujets étrangers ainsi que les droits de juridiction et de protection Consulaire, tels qu'ils ont

été établis par les Capitulations et les usages, resteront en pleine vigueur dans la Principauté de Bulgarie, tant qu'ils n'auront pas été modifiés du consentement des parties intéressées. Il lui est connu également que la même disposition y est contenu à l'égard des Principautés de Serbie et de Roumanie.

Par conséquent, ce n'est pas sans surprise que j'ai dû apprendre de la lettre du Gouvernement Général en date du 25 Novembre que tous les motifs qui auraient dû le faire décider à accéder à la demande qui lui a été adressé par moi et mes collègues de France, de Grèce, et d'Italie et dernièrement par celui de la Grande Bretagne ont été parfaitement ignorés, et que par contre le Secrétaire-Général exige que les Consuls fassent connaître un Acte de Convention ou d'entente, dont l'Article 20 du Statut Organique fait mention, relativement à l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale, demande pour le moins tout-à-fait superflue en vue de l'existence de la dite pratique judiciaire dans l'Empire Ottoman.

Par suite de cela, j'ai l'honneur de réitérer ma demande contenue dans ma note du 21 Octobre passé, et de prier de nouveau votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre les dispositions nécessaires à ce que la pratique judiciaire en matière civile dans les procès entre indigènes et sujets étrangers existant dans l'Empire Ottoman soit remise en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CINGRIA.

Inclosure 7 in No. 179.

M. Langlais to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Août*, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

AU nombre des questions que la mise en œuvre des lois nouvelles recommande à la sollicitude du Gouvernement de la Roumélie, il en est une sur laquelle il serait à désirer qu'une entente s'établit entre les autorités centrales et les Consulats étrangers.

Elle a trait à l'administration de la justice.

Votre Excellence sait que dans les Tribunaux d'Orient les étrangers jouissent du privilége de voir adjoindre aux Juges locaux des Assesseurs de leur nation, toutes les fois que les Tribunaux sont appelés à juger un procès entre un sujet territorial et un sujet étranger. Il en est ainsi à Constantinople et partout. Il en est ainsi dans la Roumélie Orientale, sous l'ancien régime; il en a été ainsi, jusqu'à ces derniers temps, sous l'Empire des lois provisoires qui ont régi le pays, jusqu'à l'avènement de la nouvelle Administration, issue du Statut Organique.

Aucun système n'est en effet mieux approprié aux exigences de la situation, aucun n'est plus propre à rassurer tous les intérêts et à ménager la prompte et sûre expédition des affaires judiciaires entre régnicoles et étrangers; et tel est le motif pour lequel le Gouvernement Provisoire lui-même l'avait admis sans conteste.

La nouvelle Administration semble ne pas vouloir s'inspirer des mêmes principes. Elle refuse d'admettre les Assesseurs étrangers dans les procès mixtes.

Je me crois autorisé à réclamer auprès de votre Excellence contre cette exclusion qui me paraît préjudiciable à tous les intérêts et contraire aussi bien à la lettre qu'à l'esprit des lois que régissent actuellement la province.

Il est dit en effet à l'Article 20 du Statut que "les Traités, Conventions, et arrangements internationaux, de quelque nature qu'ils soient, conclus ou à conclure, entre la Porte et les Puissances étrangères, sont applicables dans la Roumélie Orientale. Les immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers, quelque soit leur condition, seront respectés dans cette province."

Or, il est un privilége incontesté et acquis aux étrangers et est à coup sûr celui dont j'ai l'honneur de revendiquer l'application.

En soumettant ces observations à la haute impartialité du premier magistrat de la province, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) LANGLAIS, *Consul de France.*

Inclosure 8 in No. 179.

M. Langlais to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Décembre*, 1879.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

DANS le Rapport joint à la lettre que le Gouvernement Local m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, en réponse à mon office du 11 Août dernier, où je réclamais l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale, M. le Secrétaire-Général exprime le doute que les Consuls des Puissances soient fondés à réclamer un pareil droit, et affirme qu'il n'a pas eu l'occasion de constater qu'une entente ait jamais existé à cet égard entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances.

M. Crestovich veut bien reconnaître cependant que cet usage existe dans les Tribunaux de Commerce de l'Empire, avis d'autant plus précieux qu'il émane du magistrat éminent qui a présidé pendant de longues années le Tidjaret à Constantinople. Votre Excellence voudra bien reconnaître avec moi qu'il serait difficile d'admettre qu'un pareil état de choses se fût perpétué dans la capitale de l'Empire et dans les provinces, s'il n'avait pas été basé sur une entente et un arrangement entre la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Puissances.

Il me paraîtrait donc oiseux d'insister plus longuement sur ce point. Votre Excellence sait qu'à la suite de la dernière guerre, lorsqu'il s'est agi de régler les conditions d'existence de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, les Puissances, d'accord avec le Gouvernement Ottoman, ont adopté pour base du régime judiciaire applicable aux étrangers aussi bien dans la Principauté que dans la province, le maintien de l'ordre de choses existant, et qu'elles ont exprimé nettement l'intention commune de n'apporter aucune modification au système traditionnel et spécial de juridiction dont bénéficiaient les étrangers dans l'Empire, et tel que l'y ont établi les Capitulations, les usages, et les arrangements internationaux.

Cela a été très-explicitement spécifié dans l'Article VIII du Traité de Berlin; dit non moins clairement dans l'Article 20 du Statut Organique de la Roumélie.

Or, il n'est pas douteux que la présence d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux ne fut un des priviléges que les Hautes Parties Contractantes entendaient maintenir. Du moins, telle est l'interprétation que je me crois autorisé à faire valoir en ce qui nous concerne. Je ne puis donc que me référer à ma lettre du 11 Août, et sous le bénéfice des observations qu'elle renfermait et de celles qui précèdent, demander à votre Excellence de bien vouloir prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que cette difficulté, qui est de nature à entraver l'action régulière et prompte de la justice, reçoive enfin une solution.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) LANGLAIS, *Consul de France.*

Inclosure 9 in No. 179.

M. Malmusi to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Octobre*, 1879.

PLUSIEURS membres de la colonie Italienne viennent de me saisir d'une question des plus importantes et m'intéressant aussi bien que l'administration de la justice.

Il s'agit, M. le Gouverneur-Général, du refus que les autorités locales opposent à l'admission de Juges étrangers dans les procès mixtes, exclusion contre laquelle il m'incombe de réclamer auprès de votre Excellence en ce qu'elle me paraît contraire aussi bien à la lettre qu'à l'esprit du Statut Organique pour la Roumélie Orientale.

Grâce à votre haute intervention une entente ne saurait tarder à s'établir à ce sujet entre l'Administration Locale de la province et les Représentants des Puissances étrangères. Je prie toutefois votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre note de ma présente réclamation et des réserves qu'il est de mon devoir de formuler, eu égard à l'exécution de tout jugement qu'en attendant aurait été ou pourrait être rendu dans les dites conditions à l'encontre des sujets Italiens.

(Signé) G. MALMUSI.

Inclosure 10 in No. 179.

M. Malmusi to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Décembre, 1879.

LES Représentants Consulaires d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, de Grèce, et d'Italie ont successivement réclamé auprès de votre Excellence contre le refus par les Tribunaux de la province à l'admission dans les causes mixtes de Juges Assesseurs.

M. le Secrétaire-Général, auquel vous avez bien voulu déférer l'examen de leurs notes respectives, ainsi que la question des droits qui s'y rattachent, conclut son Rapport par des réserves et une demande dont la portée et l'influence en la matière m'échappent.

En effet, alors même que l'organisation et la composition actuelle des Tribunaux de Commerce dont la capitale et les chefs-lieux de district des Etats Ottomans ne résultaient que d'une simple entente ou arrangement tacite de la Sublime Porte et les Légations ou Ambassades étrangères, il me semble qu'il y aurait là l'acte international d'une nature quelconque dont parle le Statut Organique.

Mais il y a plus, M. le Gouverneur-Général; il est d'abord de notoriété publique que la juridiction Ottomane mixte existe par suite d'accords ayant force de Conventions Internationales, et créant aux Parties Contractantes des droits et des obligations réciproques. Telles modifications à porter au dit système de juridiction résultent également d'ententes semblables, parfois concrétées en règlements, comme en Egypte.

Il est de fait en outre que la pratique judiciaire, dont il s'agit, fonctionnait régulièrement en cette province avant son autonomie administrative, qu'elle était suivie et parfaitement réglée, ai-je dit, avant la Réforme Judiciaire; qu'elle vient d'être appliquée sans restriction dans la Principauté de la Bulgarie.

L'Article 20 du Statut Organique, du reste, sanctionne aussi ce principe, M. le Gouverneur-Général, à savoir: que "toutes les immunités et tous les privilèges acquis aux étrangers seront respectés en cette province."

C'est ce principe, établi d'une manière bien plus explicite par les Articles VIII et XX du Traité de Berlin, et qu'aucune disposition contraire du Statut Organique ne saurait certes modifier, que j'ai invoqué, et que j'invoque à nouveau, M. le Gouverneur-Général, au bénéfice des nationaux Italiens demeurant en la Roumélie Orientale.

Ce sont les droits juridictionnels établis par les Capitulations, les Traités, et les usages, ainsi que s'exprime le Traité de Berlin, dont je réclame la jouissance pour mes administrés.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. MALMUSI.

No. 180.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18, 1880.)

(No. 429.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 31, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 27th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Bulgarian agent who was employed in distributing relief to the Mussulman refugees from Sevlievo reports that about 300 other refugees from the neighbourhood of Loftcha are in an equally critical position at Kezanlik. He states that he was "struck with terror at the sight of their sufferings," and that ten or twelve had perished from cold on their way from Gabrovo (on the other side of the Balkans), to which town they were in the habit of repairing with the object of purchasing food for their children at a lower price than at Kezanlik.

On learning these facts the Central Refugee Relief Committee transmitted the sum of 60 liras for their more immediate succour by three local Bulgarian notables who were elected for that duty, together with another sum of 25 liras contributed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, for the further relief of the refugees from Sevlievo, amongst whom fifty sheepskin coats and 1,000 okes of biscuit, purchased at Gabrovo, had already been distributed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 181.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 1. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 1, 1880.

AS an instance of the anxiety which exists in certain quarters to prevent the miserable condition of the Turkish refugees who have returned to this province from being made public, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, at a meeting of the Central Refugee Relief Committee held last night, Mr. Gueshoff, the President of the Provincial Assembly, disputed, on the strength of assurances given to him by the Bailli of Kezanlik, that the refugees from Sevlievo were still encamped in canvas tents, as reported to the Committee by M. Tonjoroff.

The latter, however, asserted that he had seen the refugees in the condition which he had described only a few days previously, and that consequently M. Gueshoff's information was not correct.

The Committee marked their appreciation of M. Tonjoroff's veracity by voting a sum of 60 liras for the relief of 300 other Mussulman refugees at Kezanlik, as reported in my despatch No. 429 of yesterday's date, and he was at the same time requested to send an agent to the district between Carlovo and Kezanlik for the purpose of reporting minutely on the distress which M. Tonjoroff had observed on his way back to Philippopoli.

I regret to state that I have this day met M. Tonjoroff on his way to the Bulgarian Exarch for the purpose of restoring the cheque which had been placed in his hands for the payment of the expenses of such an agent, as he had failed to procure the services of two Bulgarian Protestants on whom he had relied for the fulfilment of that mission.

They had refused to undertake it on the ground that, as they would be compelled to report that the sufferings were all on the part of Turkish refugees, they would incur the displeasure of their countrymen and of the Local Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S. *January* 2.—The Exarch refused to take back the cheque, and urged M. Tonjoroff to find an agent. After some difficulty the latter has succeeded in engaging the services of a co-religionist, who leaves to-morrow.

T. M.

No. 182.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of this date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Address with which the Governor-General closed this day the first Session of the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia.

The Russian Acting Consul-General was the only member of the Consular Body who was present at the closing of the Assembly, the remaining Consular Representatives having individually failed to see, in the communication of which I beg to inclose a copy, an invitation on the part of the Governor-General to assist at the ceremony.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Address of Governor-General on closing the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, $\frac{\text{December } 24, 1879}{\text{January } 5, 1880}$.

(Translation from the Bulgarian.)

MM. les Députés,

IN conformity with the provisions of the Organic Statute, I proceed this day to close the Assembly of the autonomous province of which I have the happiness to be the Governor.

As all beginnings are difficult, so the first Session just closed has been very difficult, the questions submitted for your consideration being of the greatest importance, since they have been destined to lay the foundations on which will finally be established the autonomous administration of this country.

Thanking you, gentlemen, from the bottom of my heart for the co-operation which you have afforded to the Government in voting the sum of 62,000 liras which the Government has employed in advances for the benefit of communities in this country the misery of which is well known, and in placing at the disposal of the Government a further sum of 40,000 liras which you have offered in order that we may come to the aid of the innumerable poor in this province, and principally the Mussulman refugees. This generosity, gentleman, is the most striking proof of the fraternal feelings which I am happy to attest, animate mutually the various nationalities of this province.

The accord which has existed between the provincial representatives and the Government has proved to me clearly once more the feelings of devotion and confidence which the population of the province, without distinction of race or religion, entertain towards me, feelings which are precious to me, and for the acquisition of which I have devoted, and shall continue to devote, all my efforts.

The Budget which you have prepared is one that approaches the term of its operative force, and you are well aware of the causes of such an abnormal state of affairs. In order that this may not re-occur, I intend, before the expiration of the financial year, to convoke you in extraordinary Session with the object of submitting for your approval a Budget which must come into operation on the 1st March next.

In conclusion, MM. les Députés, hoping to see you all soon re-assembled in this building, I declare the first Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia to be closed.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le 20 Décembre, 1879.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que, conformément aux dispositions du Statut Organique, je procéderai Samedi prochain, 3 Janvier courant, à midi, à la clôture de la Session bi-mensuelle de la première Assemblée Provinciale de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 183.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, January 3, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 380, Most Confidential, of the 25th November, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two Reports that have been addressed to the Governor-General by the Prefect of the Department of Philippopolis, in reply to the Report made by M. Schmidt on the subject of his journey in the Karadja-Dagh district.

Without refuting any of the facts recorded by M. Schmidt in respect to the destruction of Turkish villages, and the negligence of the authorities in the matter of the complaints made by Mussulmans, the Prefect, in his Report of the $\frac{1}{13}$th ultimo, accuses M. Schmidt of having made suggestions based on an "unjust, insufficient, and biassed study" of the state of affairs; while, in his Report of the 23rd ultimo, the same official says that if M. Schmidt "sees evil and persecution where they do not exist," he has no remedy for such an evil.

M. Schmidt endeavoured in vain to procure satisfaction at the hands of the Governor-General for the tone and substance of those Reports.

While they were in preparation, it came to my knowledge that the Governor-General had himself insisted on a complete refutation of M. Schmidt's statements being produced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

M. Konsoleff to Aleko Pasha.

Plovdiv, le 17 Novembre, 1879.

Altesse,

EN réponse à l'ordre de votre Altesse en date du 27 passé, accompagné du Rapport de M. le Directeur des Finances, j'ai l'honneur d'exposer à votre Altesse ce qui suit:—

M. le Directeur des Finances décrit dans son Rapport l'état des villages qu'il a visités, la disposition des esprits à cause des événements, les méfaits commis par des Bulgares contre les Turcs, méfaits parmi lesquels figurent en première ligne la démolition des maisons Turques, faite en vue de la réparation des maisons Bulgares. Et malgré cela il conseille d'une manière privée, aux Turcs et aux Bulgares, habitants des villages Kidmchik, Karadja-Ochat, Isak-Faki, et Kara-Imitli, de rétablir entre eux le bon accord pour améliorer leur position. Il propose, enfin, de prendre en général à cet effet les dispositions suivantes:—

1. Qu'on permette aux Chrétiens de demeurer dans les maisons qui ont été bâties avec le matériel enlevé aux maisons Turques, mais que les Chrétiens cèdent aux Turcs pour la saison d'hiver autant de maisons qu'il leur en faut pour pouvoir y passer la mauvaise saison.

Les Chrétiens sont tenus de faciliter aux Turcs la construction des abris provisoires ou la réparation des maisons qui pourraient encore être habitées.

2. Les Chrétiens qui ont démoli les maisons Turques sont très-coupables, mais leur punition n'améliorera pas la situation présente. A mon avis, les autorités auxquelles a été conféré le gouvernement de cette contrée sont bien plus coupables que la population. Il faut faire une enquête pour savoir si les mouhtars et les gendarmes qui étaient obligés de se trouver dans les villages démolis ont présenté des rapports, si ces rapports ont été reçus par les chefs, et si ces derniers ont informé les Préfets.

3. La cause des mésintelligences entre les Chrétiens et les Turcs, et des plaintes de ceux-ci est la remise des semences que les Chrétiens doivent aux Turcs sur les récoltes faites dans les champs Musulmans. Dans tous les villages il y a des registres dans lesquels sont désignés ces dettes; il paraît que ces registres sont tenus très-bien. On ne donne pas copie de ces registres aux Musulmans, et il se fait que ces derniers demandent, justement ou non, des sommes souvent beaucoup plus grandes que celles que les Chrétiens avouent leur devoir. Partout les Musulmans se plaignent que la remise des moissons qui leur appartiennent se fait avec beaucoup de difficulté, et ont demandé un certificat des sommes qui leur sont dues.

Pour éviter dorénavant les discordes et les plaintes, il aurait été bon de faire venir les parties auprès des autorités (les chefs) pour arranger d'une manière définitive les dettes de moissons. Je crois que les parties s'y entendent bien, et les chefs n'ont qu'à confirmer l'acte que les Musulmans désireraient avoir.

4. Le nombre des gendarmes résidant dans le Canton de Karadja-Dagh doit être augmenté; il est désirable de mettre un gendarme dans tout village Turc, et un ou deux gendarmes dans tout village mixte.

Il est nécessaire que les gendarmes, selon les prescriptions du Statut Organique, soient pris parmi les Turcs aussi bien que parmi les Chrétiens.

Quoiqu'à Karadja-Dagh les Turcs soient nombreux, parmi les vingt-deux gendarmes qui s'y trouvent, il n'y a même pas un Musulman.

L'exposé des mesures édictées, et celles qui seront prises par le Conseil de la Préfecture, montrera à votre Altesse que quelques-unes des propositions sus-mentionnées de M. Schmidt ont déjà été mises en œuvre, et d'autres sont en train d'être exécutées, autant cependant que le temps et les moyens nous le permettront. Pour cela, dans l'exposé sus-mentionné je suivrai l'ordre dans lesquels sont exposées les mesures préconisées par M. Schmidt. Il sera évident alors que ces propositions ne sont pas en dehors des intentions et des mesures du Gouvernement, mais il y en a parmi elles qui sont basées sur une étude des affaires et des circonstances injuste, insuffisante, et de parti pris.

La proposition de M. Schmidt, d'après les informations verbales que m'a données le Chef du Canton de Sernena-Gora (Karadja-Dagh), est mise à exécution dans les villages Mouslou-Tchaly et Kydrychik.

Il faut prendre en considération que les Bulgares de Soujoutjouk se sont installés à Kydrychik et Mouslou-Tchali, non-seulement parce que leur village est démolie, mais parce que aussi l'eau manque près de leur village. Ils vivaient avec grande peine, étant forcés de transporter en bains l'eau nécessaire de Kydrychik. Les

villageois ne consentent d'aucune manière par conséquent à se soumettre de nouveau à ces difficultés. M. T. Kablichkoff a proposé de donner aux Tures de Kydrychik et de Moushou-Tchali une indemnité de 50,000 piastres, sur les £ T. 15,000 destinées aux secours des Bulgares qui seraient forcés de quitter les maisons Turques, contre le terrain sur lequel les Bulgares ont bâti leurs maisons, à condition que ces derniers s'engagent à rendre au Gouvernement cette somme, et je crois que si cette mesure est approuvée, les deux parties intéressées y consentiront. Pour le moment, M. Kablichkoff est persuadé que Tures et Bulgares de ces villages vont passer l'hiver tranquillement, parce qu'ils vivent en bons voisins et amis.

Quant au deuxième paragraphe de la même communication, M. le Bailli me fait savoir qu'il a donné des ordres dans ce sens au Commandant de Police lors du passage de M. Schmidt même, ce que M. Vlassakoff, qui y était alors, confirme aussi.

M. Kablichkoff a demandé aux Tures, lorsqu'ils étaient venus chercher de secours en semences et en argent si l'ordre sus-mentionné a été mis à exécution, et les Tures lui ont répondu qu'effectivement les Bulgares les assistaient dans la construction de leurs maisons, et qu'ils étaient satisfaits.

Par sa seconde proposition, en dénonçant la culpabilité des Chrétiens qui ont démoli les maisons Turques, M. Schmidt pense que leur punition n'améliorera pas la situation, mais il considère les autorités comme plus responsables qu'elles ne le sont, et propose une manière de chercher les coupables parmi ceux qui sont près des autorités. Effectivement, la démolition des villages Kouron-Imitli, Karadja-Ochat, et Isak-Faki par les Bulgares pour se construire avec le matériel leurs propres maisons, est elle-même un délit. Mais, non-seulement leur poursuite et leur punition n'amélioreraient pas la situation, comme M. Schmidt le croit, mais il faut prévoir aussi si cette démarche n'amènerait de graves complications pour le Gouvernement, ayant en vue qu'une fois que le douloureux passé sera ressuscité, des accusations collectives pourront se produire de la part des Bulgares, non contre les Bachi-Bozouks et les soldats pour les massacres, le pillage, et la dévastation des villages, mais bien contre plusieurs des habitants de ces localités, à ce que l'on peut juger des démonstrations faites par plusieurs Bulgares devant MM. Kablichkoff et Vlassakoff.

Quant à l'accusation portée contre les autorités, il ne faut pas oublier, je crois, que la démolition de ces trois villages a eu lieu à l'époque de la remise de l'Administration de la part des autorités Russes aux autorités actuelles, lorsque ces dernières ne pouvaient pas être suffisamment organisées, et n'avaient pas à leur disposition la force et les moyens nécessaires pour prévenir ces faits. Comme preuve à ce que je viens de dire, je me permets de rapporter que dans cette époque le Canton d'Obtchebo-Kulnou, qui se composait de 72 villages, dont 25 compris actuellement dans le Canton de Sermena-Gora, n'avait que 16 gendarmes; et le district de Carlovo, qui consistait d'environ 115 villages dans les dits cantons; ceux-ci étaient divisés d'une telle façon que le Canton d'Obtchebo-Kulnou d'alors s'étendait du village de Tchakardjik jusqu'à Kopristhitsa et Donchanti, ayant une longueur de 20 heures environ.

La troisième proposition traite des difficultés que les Tures rencontrent à l'obtention de la moitié des récoltes, et les différends qui surgissent entre les Tures et les Bulgares sur les comptes de la moitié; et elle propose des mesures ayant pour but de fixer la manière de dresser des comptes et de faciliter la rentrée de la moitié de ces récoltes. La Commission des Réfugiés a toujours donnée les ordres nécessaires aux Anciens des villages, de donner aux Tures le compte de leurs récoltes, et de leur rendre ce qui leur est dû.

Lorsque les Tures formulent actuellement de semblables plaintes, les Baillis sont engagés à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour que les céréales des Tures leur soient rendus, à vérifier leurs comptes avec les Bulgares, et à les faire légaliser par les Baillis, et lorsqu'il y a de différences importantes dans leurs comptes, à les envoyer pour être soumises à la Commission des Réfugiés en cette ville. En outre, il a été décidé d'inviter les Anciens des villages, dans tous les cantons, qui doivent la moitié des récoltes, à rendre compte à la Commission, en présence des représentants des Tures intéressés.

Les Tures inscrivent de leur côté tout ce qu'ils reçoivent et délivreront aux Bulgares les reçus y relatifs. Quant aux difficultés qui s'opposent à la remise de la moitié des récoltes, si elles surgissent par-ci par-là, dans quelques villages, ce n'est pas par opposition seulement, mais bien pour ces deux motifs aussi:—

(*a.*) La très-mauvaise récolte de cette année;

(*b.*) Une grande quantité de la moitié des moissons des Tures a été répartie à des réfugiés Chrétions, qui après ont encore déménagé sans rendre le blé qui leur a été distribué. Lorsque la Commission procédera à une vérification dans tous les villages

où ont été distribués des blés Tures, elle recueillera aussi des renseignements détaillés sur ce qui a été rendu aux Tures, et sur ce qui reste à leur devoir.

Relativement à la proposition de M. Schmidt, c'est-à-dire l'envoi de gendarmes Musulmans dans les villages Tures pour la sécurité et la tranquillité de ces derniers, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse que la Préfecture, du temps même de mon prédécesseur, s'était adressée aux autorités compétentes pour la mise à exécution de cette mesure; mais malheureusement ni alors on n'y a réussi ni à présent, on n'est pas en état d'y faire quelque chose de plus, parce que, d'après ce que j'ai entendu dire, la gendarmerie du département ne comptera que 230 hommes, et ce qui est pis, la moitié de ces hommes n'ont pas encore des armes, des chevaux, ou les autres choses nécessaires.

D'après les Rapports que m'ont adressés à ce sujet les Chefs de Cantons, la Préfecture devrait avoir à sa disposition 300 gendarmes à cheval et à pied.

En conclusion, je me permets de vous communiquer quelques détails sur l'état de mon département.

Il règne une grande misère dans la plus grande partie de la population, parmi les Bulgares, ainsi que parmi les Musulmans, ce qui rend insuffisants les secours que le Gouvernement distribue.

Les Rapports mensuels paraissent assez favorables; depuis un mois il n'y a qu'une seule violence faite de la part d'un Bulgare contre un Ture, commise à Ouzoun-Karovo, où ce Ture a été battu.

D'après les informations que le Ministère Public m'a données, toutes les plaintes de la part des Tures ont été prouvées non fondées.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. KONSOLOFF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

M. Konsoloff to Aleko Pasha.

Plovdiv, le 23 Novembre, 1879.

Altesse,

ME conformant à l'ordre de votre Altesse du 21 courant, j'ai l'honneur de rapporter ce qui suit:—

La requête des habitants du village de Sari-Ibrik (Canton de Semenagor) m'a été présenté le 22 Octobre, et le 23 du même mois je l'ai transmise au Bailli de Semena-Gora, afin de vérifier si les requérants avaient labouré le terrain nécessaire pour la semence demandée.

En conformité des mesures approuvées dans le Conseil de la Préfecture, à la suite de l'ordre de M. le Directeur de l'Intérieur en date du 28 Octobre, nous engageons à veiller à ce que les abus n'aient pas lieu à l'endroit des céréales accordées pour servir de semence. Comme votre Altesse le constatera sur la liste ci-inclose des semences distribuées jusqu'aujourd'hui, et à distribuer, on base des requêtes vérifiées; le crédit de £ T. 3,300 destiné à des semences a été épuisé, les requêtes vérifiées ayant été satisfaites, et le sont encore par la distribution à raison de 2 kilés de Constantinople pour chaque deunum de terrain préparé pour la semence. Les requêtes tendant à obtenir des semences pour les terrains qui n'existent pas d'après la vérification sont restées sans aucune suite, en vertu de l'ordre susmentionné de la Direction de l'Intérieur. C'est dans cette catégorie que la requête des habitants de Sari-Ibrik doit être classée. Du reste, ces villageois se sont présentés une seule fois chez moi pour demander ce qui est advenu de leur demande.

Je leur ai dit que j'examinerai les dossiers y relatifs et que je leur répondrai. Depuis lors je ne les ai plus revus.

Je lis dans la lettre de M. le Directeur des Finances le passage suivant: "Si le Préfet ne voulait pas venir au secours de ce village, il devait donner une réponse catégorique à ces pauvres gens, qui sans cela passent des semaines entières dans l'incertitude à Plovdiv.

Dans la liste des semences distribuées et à distribuer pour les requêtes qui ont été vérifiées avant l'épuisement du crédit, votre Altesse pourra remarquer qu'il ne m'est jamais passé par l'esprit une idée telle que celle dont M. Schmidt parle dans sa lettre.

Je ne puis pas donner des secours aux uns et les refuser aux autres; je tâche simplement de remplir les devoirs que me sont prescrits, non-seulement par des principes plus élevés—des principes que M. Schmidt suppose tout-à-fait étrangers à certaine race d'hommes—mais par mes attributions mêmes.

Ceux qui désirent se persuader de cela, n'ont pas besoin de recourir à des faits antérieurs qui fixent complétement mon caractère; il leur suffit pour connaître mon attitude dans le service, de s'informer auprès des personnes mêmes, qui, par suite de leurs affaires, sont en relation avec moi.

La réfutation que je fais de la lettre de M. Schmidt dans laquelle le parti pris est resté par trop évident, je ne la fais ni par fierté ni dans le but d'augmenter ou de conserver plus de bienveillance que celle que je mérite; je la fais dans mon droit à me défendre lorsque je suis injustement attaqué.

Si M. Schmidt voit le mal et la persécution là où ils n'existent pas, je n'ai aucun remède pour cette maladie.

Mais je le prie de ne pas toucher sans cause et motif et m'obliger de cette manière à m'écarter du langage propre au service, écart que Votre Altesse pardonnera, j'espère, eu égard à ma juste indignation.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Préfet de Plovdiv,
(Signé) G. KONSOLOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

COMPTE Approximatif du Crédit de £T. 3,000 accordé pour Semences.

(Traduction.)

Canton de Plovdiv.

			Kilès de Constantinople.
Aux Bulgares du village de	Ostromila	..	72
" " "	Orsiova	..	142
" Turcs "	Trilil ..	..	959
" " "	Marcovo ..	..	150
" " "	Ouslina ..	..	600
" " "	Strevena ..	..	78
" Bulgares "	Satir ..	..	82
" Turcs "	Ahlan ..	..	75
" Bulgares "	Karaolar Yeka ..	..	130
" Turcs "	du cercle de Gourko ..	..	519
Total ..	.. .. ..	..	2,798

Evalués approximativement à £T. 622.

Canton d'Ortchc Hulni.

Aux Bulgares du village de	Tzalapitza ..	..	1,700
" " "	Ekshintza ..	..	300
" " "	Tchardlak (Bulgarie) ..	..	150
" " "	Mersian ..	..	160
" " "	Karnophola ..	..	300
" " "	Kara Mousaffar ..	..	250
" Turcs "	Boulgarski ..	..	150
" Bulgares "	Davoutlar ..	..	350
" Turcs "	Dourontti ..	..	450
" " "	Radinova ..	..	325
" Bulgares "	Dzamanli ..	..	150
" " "	Tchardak (Turc) ..	..	60
" Turcs "			
Total ..	.. .. ..	..	4,395

Evalués approximativement à £T. 963·33.

Canton de Jerneua Gora.

Aux Turcs du village de	Bakirli ..	..	760
" " "	Yoruklar ..	..	665
" " "	Salibli ..	..	1,200
" " "	Kommlare ..	..	300
" " "	Ali-faki ..	..	500
" " "	Tchob (Turc) ..	..	333
" " "	Rifa-Koui ..	..	150
" " "	Sevezhli ..	..	450
" " "	Kiretchli ..	..	360
" " "	Issak-faki ..	..	215
" " "			
Total ..	.. .. ..	..	4,841

Evalués approximativement à £T. 1,076⅓.

[a] Reçu £T. 100 de moins que le crédit en leur faveur, vu qu'elles leur avaient été données auparavant directement par le préposé du finances.

Canton de Kemarli.

Aux Turcs de	Stanimaka	80

Evalués approximativement à £T. 17⅓.

Canton de Roudschouck.

Aux Bulgares du village de	Dédevo	120
" Turcs "	Sophiishte	375
Total ..	.. ..	495

Evalués approximativement à £T. 110.

Canton de Stroumza.

Aux Bulgares du village de	Koshnaclar	811·89

Evalués approximativement à £T. 180·42.

No. 184.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 5. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, January 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a copy of the letter in which M. Schmidt has conveyed his resignation of the office of Director of Finance.

The Russian Acting Consul-General spent some hours yesterday in endeavouring to persuade M. Schmidt to retain that post. He urged that his Government had always reposed the greatest confidence in M. Schmidt, and had given him every proof of regard and esteem, both during the Russian occupation and since the administration of Aleko Pasha. The only way, however, in which M. Isvolsky attempted to prove the correctness of his statement was by assuring M. Schmidt that the Russian Government would have "broken the neck" of any man in a similar position who had not made himself acceptable to it.

At the same time, M. Isvolsky confessed to M. Schmidt his fear lest his resignation would create a great stir, to the satisfaction of political adversaries who would not fail to "exploiter" the incident.

After the receipt of M. Schmidt's resignation, Aleko Pasha summoned the members of the Permanent Committee, and later the Bulgarian members of his Privy Council, in order to seek their advice in such an important matter as the resignation of the Director of Finance on the ground of his disapproval of some of the views and measures of the Government.

His Excellency subsequently sent for M. Schmidt, and requested him to reconsider his decision, holding out as an inducement the prospect of twice the amount of salary at present attached to the office of Director of Finance.

M. Schmidt indignantly rejected this proposal and refused to alter his decision, accepting, however, as a momentary compromise, leave of absence for six days (during the approaching Christmas festivities) in order to enable him to proceed at once to Constantinople.

M. Schmidt has undertaken to return to Philippopoli at the expiration of that period in order to transfer to his successor the administration of the provincial finances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 184.

M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 2 Janvier, 1880.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

LA clôture de la première Session de l'Assemblée Provinciale et l'achèvement des travaux budgétaires me laissent libre de mettre à exécution une décision dont j'ai eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre Excellence à plusieurs reprises.

Dans beaucoup de questions d'un ordre général j'ai été en désaccord avec les vues et les mesures adoptées par le Gouvernement, et pourtant il m'incombait, étant un des Administrateurs-Généraux de cette province, une certaine part de responsabilité morale.

Je m'étais donc décidé de quitter le service de la Roumélie Orientale; et je crois le moment arrivé où il m'est possible, sans préjudice aux intérêts de la province, de prier votre Excellence de bien vouloir accepter ma démission et de la soumettre à la haute approbation de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Je prie encore votre Excellence de bien vouloir désigner le fonctionnaire qui sera appelé à me remplacer, afin que je puisse commencer la remise de l'Administration que j'ai eu l'honneur de diriger jusqu'à présent.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 185.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January 3*, 1880.

M. SCHMIDT, the Director of Finance in this province, who is so favourably known to your Lordship from the reports of Sir H. Drummond Wolff and from the despatches which I have subsequently addressed from this residence, has this day tendered his resignation of the office which he has hitherto filled with such advantage to the material interests of Eastern Roumelia and with such perfect loyalty towards the Sublime Porte.

He has long intended to take this step, owing to the difficulties by which his efforts to oppose a tendency clearly inimical to the exact execution of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute have been surrounded.

On many questions of general policy he has been at variance with the more immediate advisers of Aleko Pasha, whose well-known qualities have long rendered hopeless the task of establishing in this province an order of things consistent with the intentions of the Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin and the framers of the Organic Statute.

Since the meeting of the Provincial Assembly M. Schmidt has seen still more clearly, from the attacks to which he has been subjected, that the moral responsibility which he incurs in respect to acts of the Government to which he is opposed would be still further increased by his forced compliance with the directions of the Assembly, and later with those of a Permanent Committee which is in reality only a legalized counterpart of the "National Committee" by which this province has long been virtually governed.

For these and many other reasons M. Schmidt has taken advantage of the closing of the Assembly, and the termination of his labours in connection with the current Budget, in order to submit his resignation to the Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 186.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 2. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 1*, 1880.

THE Sultan, when speaking to me to-day of his interview with the Greek Œcumenical Patriarch, said that he had informed His Beatitude that his army was about to be reorganized; that he was going to put into execution his intention of extending the conscription to all classes of his subjects, and that he especially counted upon the loyalty and zeal of the Greeks. To his great surprise, His Majesty went on to say, the Patriarch made objections to the enrolment of Greeks in the Ottoman army, remarking that the matter was a very difficult one to deal with; that the Christians could not serve with Mussulmans, and that if they were to furnish troops they must be formed into separate battalions. His Majesty observed that he had always understood that one of the grievances of his Christian subjects, and one which had even been taken up by Europe, was that they were excluded from the army, and now that he was about to include them in it they appeared to make this a grievance. There was, His Majesty thought, a serious objection to having separate battalions of Christian troops. In stating

this to the Patriarch he had assured His Holiness that this objection did not arise from any suspicion of the loyalty of his Christian subjects. Their religion, he had told His Holiness, would be strictly respected; they should have their priests and their churches, as the Mussulmans had their mollahs and their mosques.

I observed to His Majesty that I had seen in the Lebanon Christians, Mussulmans, and Druses serving together as officers and men in the militia and gendarmerie, and that I had received an interesting report from Crete showing how Mussulmans and Christians had been successfully mixed in the gendarmerie of that island. I trusted, therefore, that the time would come when the Christians, assured that they would be placed on a perfect equality with the Mussulmans, and that their religion would be scrupulously respected, would be ready to serve His Majesty in the same way as their Mahommedan fellow subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 2*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the list of the military appointments made under the new regulations for the organization of the Ottoman army, published in the semi-official newspaper, the "Turquie." Your Lordship will observe that Osman Pasha is no longer termed "Seraskier," or Commander-in-chief—that office being now given to the Sultan,—but Minister of War; and that Baker Pasha is named President of the Section of the Gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 188.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 4*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consul in Crete has reported to me by telegraph that Salih Pasha, Commander-in-chief at Salonica, has been appointed Commander-in-chief in Crete. Salih Pasha being a Mahommedan Cretan, Mr. Sandwith considers this appointment injudicious. I shall take an opportunity of bringing this appointment to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 189.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 5*, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1043, Confidential, of the 28th November last, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, complaining of the manner in which the French and Italian Consuls at Aleppo have favoured the conversion to Roman Catholicism of certain Armenians, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 189.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, December 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch I have the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that the Jesuits and Roman Catholic priesthood throughout the vilayet generally have for some time past been most active and persistent in their attempts to convert the Armenians to Roman Catholicism, and all the influence of France is being used, sometimes not very scrupulously, to support their propaganda.

The Patriarch, in his letter to your Excellency, makes special mention of the case of the village of Ghuin as an example, and certainly the animus and violence displayed by my French colleague against the Armenians of this village, who have refused to accept the Papal dogmas, scarcely becomes the Representative of a Power like France.

Franciscan monks were sent to this village to convert the Armenians, but little progress was made, as the villagers were slow of conversion and preferred their ancient faith. An Armenian priest who owed 200*l.* to the Patriarch at Aleppo was induced by promises of French protection to become a proselyte, and eventually this priest and the monks succeeded in making some thirty converts, some by promises of French protection and others by less creditable means.

The Armenians were naturally very much annoyed at the behaviour of the priests, but the Kaïmakam behaved well and maintained tranquillity with admirable tact, but the priests were unsatisfied with this measure of success, and wished the Kaïmakam to use his influence to procure converts for them, and on his refusal false charges were made against him, and by the influence of the French Consul he was recalled to Aleppo. The inquiry into his conduct proved his entire innocence of the charges preferred against him, and the Acting Governor-General very properly reinstated him. But the French Consul behaved in the most violent manner, and Said Pasha, without going into the details of the matter, sacrificed the man to the violence of M. Destrées by transferring him elsewhere.

The triumph of French violence at Aleppo influenced the zeal of the converts, and their conduct became so offensive and insulting that a conflict ultimately ensued, in which fourteen persons were wounded, the armed escort of the Franciscan monks having commenced the fray.

Sheikh Hana, an Armenian Notable known for his staunch adherence to his own creed, has given special offence to the French party, and it appears he has been singled out as a fit victim for persecution. Every effort is being made by M. Destrées to crush this man as he did the Kaïmakam, and it appears that there is every prospect of his succeeding, as I hear he is going to appear in person against him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—I have just learnt that a paid French Vice-Consul has been appointed at Marash with the avowed object of diminishing English influence with the Armenian and Mussulman population.

P. H.

No. 190.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 19.)

Constantinople, January 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation by Mr. Block, Assistant on the Dragoman Staff of this Embassy, of a memorial which I have received from the Mufti and eleven Notables at Varna respecting the persecution which Mussulmans are alleged to be suffering under at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 191.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 6, 1880.

My Lord,

M. SCHMIDT, the Director-General of the Finance of Eastern Roumelia, who arrived here yesterday, called upon me to-day, and was good enough to give me much interesting information upon the present state of affairs in that province, which confirmed for the most part that already furnished to your Lordship by Mr. Consul-General Michell. He tells me that he will persist in his resignation, and will only return to Philippopoli to hand over his post to his successor. He said that he found his position quite untenable; the Bulgarians were determined to "Bulgarize" the province, and to exclude all other elements from any share in the Administration. They were ready to avail themselves of his services as long as he was useful to them, but they were very hostile to him as a foreigner, and would make things as uncomfortable to him as possible. He would not share the responsibility with those who were determined to put aside the Treaty of Berlin, and to pursue a policy in direct opposition to the intentions and decisions of the majority of the Powers who were parties to that Treaty. He observed that the "Permanent Committee," which had unfortunately been authorized by the Organic Statute, was nothing but the "Secret Committee" formed during the Russian occupation under a different name. It was now carrying out, under the sanction of legality, what the Secret Committee had been doing illegally. He dwelt upon the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans by the Bulgarians, and the difficulty of securing to them the relief which the funds voted by the Assembly for that purpose were destined to afford, but he added that he hoped that in a short time the poorer classes of Mahommedans would settle down quietly and be able to maintain themselves, especially if the harvests of this year were fairly good. He is of opinion, however, that the Turkish landed proprietors will have very great difficulty in recovering their estates, which have been appropriated by the Bulgarians. He spoke very disparagingly of the character of Aleko Pasha. He observed that, notwithstanding the disadvantages under which the new province laboured, it had made substantial progress, and already contrasted favourably with the adjoining Turkish provinces. The condition, on the other hand, of Bulgaria was such that the desire for union to it had very much diminished amongst the Eastern Roumelian Bulgarians.

M. Schmidt gave me an interesting account of the system that he has introduced for the collection of tithes, which is worthy, it appears to me, of the serious consideration of the Porte, and might be introduced with great advantage into other Turkish provinces. He is of opinion that the abolition of tithes, and the substitution for them of a land tax, would be a very difficult measure to carry out in Turkey, at any rate, for a very long time to come. Now that M. Schmidt is no longer in the service of the Eastern Roumelian Government, it is much to be desired that the Porte should avail itself of his services in organizing its finances. The ability and loyalty he has shown in the discharge of his duties ought to be a strong recommendation to it to employ him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 192.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 29.)

Constantinople, January 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1143 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which the Greek Minister here has addressed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, informing his Excellency that, as further negotiations respecting the Turco-Greek frontier are useless, in view of the continual and indefinite adjournments of the Conferences, the Greek Plenipotentiaries have referred to their Government for instructions as to the course they are to pursue under the circumstances.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 192.

M. Coundouriotis to Sawas Pasha.

Péra, le $\frac{20 \text{ Décembre, } 1879.}{1 \text{ Janvier, } 1880.}$

M. le Ministre,

VOTRE Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 26 Décembre courant une lettre par laquelle elle a bien voulu m'annoncer qu'ayant pu faire abréger l'étude du dernier Mémoire (transmis à votre Excellence par ma lettre du $\frac{8}{20}$ Décembre), notre séance aurait lieu Lundi dernier $\frac{1}{13}$ du mois courant.

Une heure avant la séance j'ai reçu, par l'entremise d'un employé du Ministère, une communication verbale de la part de votre Excellence par laquelle on me faisait savoir qu'un document essentiel n'était pas encore signé, qu'on l'attendait d'un moment à l'autre, et que par conséquent un nouvel ajournement se rendait nécessaire.

Quatre jours se sont écoulés, et malgré le désir que j'ai exprimé d'avoir une communication écrite et de ne plus voir ajournée notre réunion, je suis encore à attendre une réponse.

Quoique le motif allégué par votre Excellence pour justifier ce dernier retard soit de nature à expliquer tous les ajournements antérieurs, et la direction donnée à nos négociations par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans dès le commencement, toutefois je m'abstiendrai de le relever.

Mais en me référant à ma lettre du $\frac{7}{19}$ et du $\frac{12}{24}$ Décembre je ne saurais omettre de rappeler à votre Excellence que notre dernière séance a eu lieu le $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre; que depuis lors trois ajournements ont eu lieu; que deux autres les ont suivis; et que tout dernièrement un retard qui ne devait être que de quelques heures s'est prolongé pendant quatre jours pour un motif qui, selon toutes les apparences, pourrait durer indéfiniment.

Nous nous voyons donc forcés, mes collègues et moi, d'en référer au Gouvernement Royal, en lui soumettant que la continuation des négociations se rend désormais inutile.

Je saisis, &c.

(Signé) A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.

No. 193.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 31.)

Constantinople, January 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from the Archbishop of Scopia, complaining of the treatment of the Christians of Jakova by the Mussulman inhabitants of that place.

His statements are, as your Lordship will perceive, fully confirmed by the inclosed memorandum, which Mr. C. St. John, Her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa, has drawn up at my request.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

The Archbishop of Scopia to Sir A. H. Layard.

Eccellenza,

Ai delitti perpetrati in Giugno decorso dai Mussulmani di Giacova contra quella comunità dei Cattolici, il giorno 12 corrente s'aggiunse un nuovo assassinio sopra Giuseppe Mitrovitch. Questo delitto venne accompagnato e seguito da minaccie e disegni de assassinare altri Cattolici, et segnatamente i sacerdoti ivi esistenti. In seguito a cio si dovette chiudere la chiesa et ritirare in luogo sicuro i sacerdoti, e mentre per l'anteriore persecuzione molte famiglie stanno disperse, o a lagrimevole miseria ridotte, le altre che sono rimaste in grandissimo timore sulla propria sorte, stanno chiuse nelle proprie case.

Egli è percio che per mio pastorale dovere mi revolgo a vostra Eccellenza in nome de Dio, dell'umanità, della clemenza de Sua Maestà la Regina, e della generosità della

nazione Britannica, imploro ajuto urgente ed efficace punizione dei delinquenti, risarcimento di tutti i danni delle famiglie, e assicurazione delle vite et degli averi.

Fiducioso d'essere esaudito e che non tarderanno i desiderati effetti coll'assicurazione d'essere riconosciutissimi, pregheremo per la prosperità di Sua Maestà la Regina e del suo regno: nel mentre ho l'alto onore di segnarmi col massimo rispetto.

(Firmato) FULGENZIO CZARES,

Arcivescovo de Scopia.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Memorandum by Mr. C. St. John on Persecution of Christians at Jakova.

THE persecutions by which the Christians are menaced at Jakova, as stated by the Archbishop of Scopia, show, as I have already had the honour to point out to Her Majesty's Government, that a determination exists on the part of the local authorities to ill-treat the Christian population, or to allow them to be ill-treated, with the view to compelling them to abandon that district, in order to make room for Mussulman refugees from Servia and Bulgaria. But the Christians, reluctant to give up what has been in their possession from time immemorial, and to seek their fortunes elsewhere, exasperate the Turks by a stubborn refusal to quit their native soil.

There is no doubt that the Government at Constantinople is not kept correctly informed of all the horrors that have been perpetrated in Albania for some time past, especially about Jakova, Ipek, and Pristina; or, if they be cognizant of the fact, that they encourage the movement by turning a deaf ear to all complaints.

Their policy is a short-sighted one, for the time must inevitably come when the persecutions now systematically carried on will attract general attention, and will offer a fair pretext for an occupation, and consequently the loss of another province to Turkey.

I consider it unadvisable, under the present circumstances, that pressure should be put on the Government for isolated cases, as that would only occasion reprisals and blood feuds. What is wanted is a radical change, such as I suggested in my despatch No. 34 to Lord Salisbury, namely, a Military Governor to reside at Prisrend, with authority and power to act, and a Commission composed of Europeans appointed to make representations.

Without the latter, no Turkish official, however well-disposed, could ascertain the truth, as the Mussulman population naturally see no harm in such persecutions, and the Christians are afraid to complain.

According to the Archbishop's letter, further persecutions may be apprehended at Jakova. I therefore venture to remind your Excellency of the valuable assistance rendered and offered to the Christians of that town by so powerful a Chief as Ali Ibra, and the urgent necessity for some recognition of his services.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Constantinople, January 1, 1880.

No. 194.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 33.)

Constantinople, January 7, 1880.

My Lord,

PREVIOUSLY to receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 1517 of the 23rd ultimo, I had caused a memorandum to be drawn up on the subject of the Damascus bondholders which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

I shall await your Lordship's instructions before acting further in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 194.

Memorandum.

ON the 10th July, 1877, a Mr. Levi, a British subject in business at Beyrout, wrote to Her Majesty's Consul-General at that port, begging him to use his influence with the Government to obtain the renewal of serghis he held in the vilayet of Syria, with their interests, and to receive on account payment in cash.

Mr. Levi being a respectable merchant, and being only one of many British subjects in Damascus and Beyrout holding these serghis, Consul-General Eldridge forwarded Mr. Levi's letter to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople for such action as his Excellency thought proper to take on it.

Sir A. H. Layard having represented the case to the Porte, was informed (21st September, 1877) that the serghis Mr. Levi held, had, it was true, been delivered some time since by the Treasury of Syria, but that the "base d'enregistrement" had been since altered. The Sublime Porte also stated that the vilayet of Syria and the Ottoman Government had been in correspondence with a view to the nomination of a Commission for the verification of the serghis and for their renewal; but that the matter having been referred to the Conseil d'Etat, that Body had decided that Turkey being at war with Russia, the settlement of the question should be deferred until after the re-establishment of peace.

Consul Eldridge wrote again to the Ambassador, inclosing a letter from Mr. Levi, and strongly urged the settlement of the claim, on account of the serious damage its non-settlement was inflicting on numerous British subjects.

Sir A. H. Layard wrote in this sense to the Porte, and was informed in reply that claimants must wait until their claims could be considered by a Financial Commission. This answer was communicated to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout, in January 1879. Since that time nothing has been heard of this Financial Commission, although just after the Turco-Russian war the Ottoman Government did obtain from the Syrian Government a list of the holders of the serghis, which was placed in the Ministry of Finance and no further notice taken of it.

When Sir Henry Layard was at Damascus he had some communication with the holders of these serghis, and brought the subject to the notice of the authorities.

Constantinople, December 29, 1879.

No. 195.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a Proclamation which has been addressed by the Sublime Porte to the inhabitants of Gussinjé and of Plava, advising them to make no opposition to the entry of the Montenegrin troops, and offering to give them lands in Macedonia, to provide means for transporting them thither, and seed and other facilities for cultivating.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Proclamation to Gusinjé-Plava.

Habitants des Districts de Gusinjé et de Plava.

LA Sublime Porte confirmant ses précédentes proclamations porte de nouveau à votre connaissance, qu'en vertu des stipulations formelles du Traité de Berlin, le territoire des districts de Gusinjé et de Plava a cessé de faire partie des Etat de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et appartient aujourd'hui à la Principauté du Monténégro; qu'en conséquence toute résistance à l'admission sur ce territoire des autorités civiles et militaires du Monténégro serait illégale et vous exposerait, vous et vos familles, à des maux que le Gouvernement Impérial a cherché à vous éviter, mais auxquels il n'aura plus de droit de vous soustraire.

Pour la dernière fois la Sublime Porte vous ajoure de vous soumettre, et de profiter des mesures paternelles qui ont été prises pour assurer le sort de ceux d'entre vous qui, cessant toute résistance, voudrait abandonner le territoire cédé aux Monténégrins.

Ces mesures consistent à mettre à votre disposition des moyens de transport suffisantes pour faciliter votre émigration, et à vous offrir dans les Vilayets de Monastir, de Kossovo, et de Scutari, et dans le Sandjak de Berat, des terres cultivables qui vous seront remises gratuitement et en toute propriété. Le Gouvernement Impérial vous promet en outre de vous venir en aide en vous fournissant gratuitement les semences pour vos champs et en facilitant votre première installation agricole. Enfin, vous serez exonérés pendant quelques années de toutes dimes ou impôt foncier.

Si vous restez sourd à ces conseils de sagesse et de prudence, la Sublime Porte se verra dans l'impérieuse nécessité de vous abandonner entièrement et de cesser tout effort pour améliorer votre sort. Vous n'aurez alors à vous en prendre qu'à vous mêmes des rigueurs auxquelles vous serez exposés et des maux qui viendraient à vous atteindre.

No. 196.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of the Act of Cession of the district of Gussinjé to Montenegro, which has been sent by the Sublime Porte to their Commissioner. I learn that the Turkish Minister at Cettinjé has informed his Government that the Prince of Montenegro refuses to send a Commissioner to Gussinjé until the Albanian population have been disarmed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 196.

Draft Act of Cession of Gussinjé to Montenegro.

LE Soussigné, Délégué *ad hoc* du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, déclare par le présent Acte transférer au Gouvernement Princier du Monténégro, représenté par . . . . . le territoire des districts du Gusinjé et Plava, conformément aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin, à quelle fin les autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes se sont retirées du dit territoire.

En foi de quoi le Soussigné a signé et délivré le présent Acte à . . . . . Délégué du Gouvernement Princier, à toutes fins de droits.

Draft Act of Cession of Koutchi-Kraina to Turkey.

Le Soussigné, Délégué *ad hoc* du Gouvernement Princier du Monténégro, déclare, par le présent Acte, transférer au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, représenté par . . . . . le territoire de Koutchi-Kraina, conformément aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin, à quelle fin les autorités civiles et militaires Monténégrines se sont retirées du dit territoire.

En foi de quoi le Soussigné a signé et délivré le présent Acte à . . . . . Délégué du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, à toutes fins de droit.

No. 197.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 38.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herwith copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Sophia, Rustchuk, and Varna, on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 197.

Acting Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Ashburnham.

Varna, December 29, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that immediately on receipt of Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's despatch of the 17th November last, instructing me to lay before the Governor of Varna the grievances complained of by Mahommedans of this district in their petition presented at this Office the 21st September last, and to request that a close investigation should be made into the truth of these statements, I had an interview with the Governor, and pointed out to him how desirable it was to adduce, if possible, proofs of the falsity or exaggeration of the allegations in question, which, as long as not clearly shown to be untrue, would continue to obtain credence.

The Governor then promised that the facts should be closely gone into, and that he would shortly communicate the result.

Three weeks elapsing without any reply, I again saw the Governor on the same subject, when he said that he had appointed some one to extract the particulars from the official documents, but that the task was not quite completed. The third time I went to the Governor he said that they had lately such a press of work that he had been obliged to suspend the process of investigation.

From the above it would appear that the local authorities, not finding it easy to disprove the complaints brought forward by the Mussulman population, judge it better to remain silent on the subject, trusting that it will sink into oblivion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 197.

Mr. Ashburnham to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sophia, December 31, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 12th instant, inclosing an extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" respecting the treatment of the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria.

I have caused its contents to be communicated to some of the principal Mussulmans of Sophia, and they have stated that, though they had nothing to do with the drawing up of the petition, they can confirm the truth of the statements contained in it as to the various vexatious proceedings to which they and their co-religionists are exposed at the hands of the Bulgarian authorities.

I fear that there is a settled purpose on the part of the Bulgarians to drive the Mussulmans from the country, and, by putting all kinds of obstacles in their way, to make them do this without even obtaining the value of their lands and property.

It is very difficult to find a remedy for this state of things; the Prince, of whose good intentions towards his Mussulman subjects they themselves are convinced, finds his hands tied by the Constitution; and even the Ministers, some of whom are, or pretend to be, equally well disposed, find their subordinates, when they receive an order, more disposed to sit down and study whether it is in accordance with the Constitution than to obey it.

The Mussulmans themselves are perfectly ready to go if they succeed in selling their property, and I have endeavoured as far as I can to assist them in this. As your Excellency will perceive from my previous despatch to Lord Salisbury, I have asked for instructions to protest officially against a recent decision of the Commission of Inquiry into Turkish claims, which, if carried out, will greatly add to the difficulties in the way of the recovery by the Mussulmans of their property, and I can assure your Excellency that I will do all in my power to procure justice for those who are now suffering much undeserved hardship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure 3 in No. 197.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Rustchuk, December 30, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Commission referred to in my despatch of the 29th ultimo has terminated its labours, and sentenced the mutineers, in number about sixty-three, to various terms of imprisonment, from one month to fifteen years. The company (the 3rd) has been formally disbanded, and the remaining members have been distributed amongst the seven companies of the Droujina.

I am also informed that the officer in command of the ex-3rd company has been sent to Sophia to be cashiered the service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 198.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 17, 1880, 7 P.M.

CAPTAIN EVERETT writes that there is very great want and suffering amongst the Armenians in the districts of Van and Bayazid, and urgently asks for means of relieving them, as many are starving. I have no money to give any assistance. Could anything be done in England? He says that about 7,000*l.* would be necessary. Armenian Patriarch has appealed to Armenians in England, and has succeeded in raising about 500*l.*

No. 199.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18, 5 P.M.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 18, 1880, 2·18 P.M.

I HAVE succeeded in getting the Slave Trade Convention through the Council of Ministers, and it goes to the Sultan to-day for the Iradé. I hope to be able to sign it within a few days, so that you may have it before Parliament meets. The Somali Firman is also now before the Sultan, and good progress has been made in the Protestant Constitution.

No. 200.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1880, 10·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 6, you are authorized to press him on behalf of Her Majesty's Government to withdraw his resignation, if you think it desirable, in such terms as you think fit.

No. 201.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1880, 11 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 26, when is Mr. St. John likely to arrive at Peisroud?

No. 202.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 5.) *Foreign Office, January* 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 6 of the 17th instant, in which you suggest that the influence of the Powers should be exercised in order to induce M. Schmidt to withdraw his resignation of the post of Director of Finance in Eastern Roumelia.

In reply, I have to state to you that should you still consider that such a step is desirable, you are authorized to press M. Schmidt, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to reconsider his determination to resign.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 203.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 4.) *St. Petersburgh, January* 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed by Chakir Pasha that in the course of a conversation held by him with M. de Giers a short time ago on the subject of the Gussinjé question, the latter had hinted at the suggestion of compensation in another quarter, but had requested that this might not be communicated to the Porte, as the Imperial Government had not actually given consideration to the matter.

The Turkish Ambassador said that there was no talk of touching Novi-Bazar, and I am disposed to believe that no such idea was ever seriously entertained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 204.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 36.) *Paris, January* 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a telegram from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Sultan's Chargé d'Affaires here, which was put into my hand this afternoon by the Chargé d'Affaires.

It relates to the proposed line of frontier between Greece and Turkey, declares this line to be unacceptable to Turkey, and expresses the belief that I shall take the side of what it terms the injured party.

I was a good deal surprised by this step, as I have not before had any communication with the Ottoman Embassy on the subject of the Greek frontier.

I was courteous, but extremely reserved in my language to the Chargé d'Affaires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 204.

Sawas Pasha to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Paris.

Constantinople, le 16 *Janvier*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

JE vous prie instamment de vous rendre sans retard chez Lord Lyons, de me rappeler à son précieux souvenir, et de lui remettre, de ma part, un exemplaire du Mémoire Ottoman, critiquant la ligne de Berlin.

Veuillez dire au noble Lord que la ligne proposée en dernier lieu aux Puissances est inacceptable pour la Turquie, car elle la prive de tous débouchés et menace de désagrégation le restant des provinces Ottomanes avoisinantes.

Si une pareille proposition était faite, le Gouvernement Impérial se trouverait dans la pénible nécessité de la décliner.

Je prie instamment le noble Lord de vouloir bien lire avec attention les Protocoles Nos. 6, 7, et 8, afin de se mieux pénétrer de la situation difficile dans laquelle les prétentions des Grecs met le Gouvernement Impérial.

Je ne doute nullement que son Excellence, dont je connais le caractère hautement équitable, ne prenne fait et cause pour la partie lésée.

No. 205.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *Paris, January* 17, 1880.

M. DE FREYCINET came to see me this afternoon, and begged me to express to your Lordship his wish to receive as soon as possible a communication of the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposals of France with regard to the frontier between Greece and Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 206.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 17 *Janvier*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que, les Commissions de Délimitation de la Serbie, de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale ayant, depuis longtemps déjà, terminé leurs travaux dont le résultat, pour être définitif et exécutoire, a besoin de la ratification des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte pense qu'il conviendrait que cette formalité fût accomplie sans plus de retard.

Je viens, par conséquent, d'être chargé par mon Gouvernement de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que la Sublime Porte, convaincue que les Puissances s'associeront à ses vues, prend l'initiative en émettant l'avis que la ratification pourrait être notifiée par une Note Circulaire dont les Représentants des Sept Puissances laisseraient copie aux Gouvernements près desquels ils sont accrédités.

En m'acquittant par la présente communication des instructions de mon Gouvernement, je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien me mettre à même d'informer la Sublime Porte si sa proposition est acceptée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

No. 207.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 19, 2·15 P.M.)

(No. 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

IN reply to No. 20, Mr. St. John will start for Prisrend by first steamer, and expects to arrive on the 1st February.

No. 208.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 16th instant, inclosing a copy of a telegram of the same date from the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs upon the question of the Greek frontier.

His Excellency Sawas Pasha urges that instructions may be given to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris to support, in his communications with M. de Freycinet, the views upon this question set forth in the Ottoman memorandum which was read at the seventh

meeting of the Turkish and Greek Plenipotentiaries, and that his Excellency should point out to the French Government the strong objections entertained by the Ottoman Government to the line of frontier proposed by M. Waddington, which would compel them to decline it in the event of its being recommended to them by the other Powers.

In reply, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government will take note of the observations made by Sawas Pasha, but they are unable to see that any useful purpose would be served by their undertaking the transmission in this indirect manner of a message from the Ottoman Government to that of France, which it is in the power of the Ottoman Government itself to communicate through its Representative at Paris.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 209.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 1.) *Sophia, January* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Prince, in accordance with his Ministers, has decided, at least for the present, not to enforce the conscription among his Mussulman subjects, on the ground of the pitiable state of destitution in which so many of them now are. The next conscription is at present fixed for the month of August, but it will probably be further delayed until next January.

I am informed by M. Natchovitz that this measure of clemency will meet with great opposition from the radical members in the Chambers, who did all in their power to prevent the formation of the Commission charged with the settlement of the claims of the Mussulmans to their property, which, although very dilatory and in no way open to a charge of partiality to the Turks, allows them to hope for a more speedy and equitable settlement of their claims than would have been obtained from the ordinary Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 210.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 3.) *Sophia, January* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, authorizing me, if necessary, to protest officially against the application of the new Decree, issued by the Commission for the settlement of Turkish claims, with regard to the signature of the Bulgarian Mayors of all villages surrounding the property in dispute.

I have spoken more than once in a friendly way both to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and to his colleague at the Ministry of the Interior, and I hope that the Decree will not be enforced except in cases where there is reasonable doubt of the validity of the title-deeds presented.

The Bulgarian Ministers assert that, in many cases where the original deeds have been lost or destroyed and legalized copies obtained from Constantinople, various irregularities have occurred, and that more than one person has presented himself with title-deeds to the same property.

From my experience of Turkish officials, I should hardly like to say that this is quite impossible, but it is no excuse for refusing to admit title-deeds of the authenticity of which there is no doubt, as would undoubtedly have been done if the Mussulmans had not sought the protection of the foreign Agents.

Petitions similar to the one inclosed in my despatch No. 236 of the 20th ultimo, have been presented to the French, Austrian, and Russian Agents. The two former have spoken or are about to speak in the same terms as I have, and I have no doubt the

Russian Agent will do so also, but his Vice-Consul, M. Lichine, in speaking to me on the subject, seemed inclined to defend the action of the Bulgarian authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 211.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 7, 1880.

THE Russian Agent and Consul-General, M. Davidoff, is about to take leave for three months, after which he will be probably replaced by M. Commany, at present Consul-General in Paris.

I have reason to believe that this change will be made in accordance with the wishes of M. Davidoff, whose position here has for some time past been very difficult.

I have been confidentially informed by a person who had an opportunity of seeing his despatches at the time of the negotiations at Tirnova, that M. Davidoff was in constant opposition to Prince Doundoukoff-Korsakoff, and that, had his views prevailed, the Prince and his Government would have been spared many of their present embarrassments. As, however, this was not the case, M. Davidoff, as Russian Representative, finds himself held responsible for many things of which he does not approve, and often obliged to play a part repugnant to him.

M. Davidoff is not popular with the Panslavist Russian officers, military and civil, employed in this country, who are supported by General Parenzoff, the Minister at War, who is endeavouring to remove all the more respectable and moderate of his subalterns. In this he will probably succeed, as some have already sent in their resignations, being unable to support any longer his overbearing and uncourteous behaviour.

I am given to understand that his conduct towards the Prince also leaves much to be desired, as he loses no opportunity of trying to diminish His Highness' influence and prestige in the eyes of the people in favour of his own, and on encountering opposition, replies that the Prince must choose between following his own desires and accepting his resignation.

M. Davidoff will be much regretted by all his colleagues, for, with the position which the Representative of Russia necessarily holds here, it is of great importance that the post should be filled by a person in whose loyalty confidence can be placed.

If my memory serves me right, Sir Henry Elliot had a favourable opinion of his successor, M. Commany, when the latter held the post of Conseiller to the Russian Embassy at Constantinople, but my Austrian colleague appears rather alarmed at the possible consequences of his nomination, chiefly on account of some transactions not much to his credit when employed as Baron Hirsch's Agent for the Roumelian Railways.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 212.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 5.) *Sophia, January* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

ON the 24th ultimo I had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 154 of the 3rd December, instructing me to ascertain from the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs in what manner all the charts and Protocols of the several Commissions engaged in the demarcation of the frontier, with the exception of that of the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, had reached his Government, as reported by Mr. Palgrave in his despatch No. 210 of the 4th November.

On the same day I addressed a note to M. Natchivitz, requesting him to furnish me with the information desired by your Lordship.

As a considerable time had elapsed without my having received any answer, I called upon his Excellency on the 5th instant to remind him of my note. M. Natchivitz excused his delay in answering on the plea that the documents had been communicated during the time when M. Balabanoff was at the head of the Department of

Foreign Affairs, and that he had not been able to learn the exact channel by which they had been received, but that he had been given to understand that it was through the courtesy of one of the Russian officers employed on the Commission, named Colonel Zehinoe.

His Excellency promised me a written answer to my inquiries in time for to-day's mail, but as it has not yet reached me, I will not delay any longer in giving your Lordship as much information as I have been able to obtain so far.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 213.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, January 20.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 19 Janvier*, 1880.

LA Sublime Porte apprend que Son Altesse le Prince du Monténégro a présenté aux Puissances un Mémoire sur la question de Gusinjé-Plava. Quoique nous n'ayons pas encore pris connaissance de ce Mémoire, nous croyons pouvoir juger de son contenu. D'après les représentations qui nous ont été faites ces derniers jours par quelques-uns des Représentants des Grandes Puissances, il paraîtrait que l'on nous accuse de ne pas avoir empêché les habitants d'Ipek et de Jacova de renforcer par des hommes et des munitions les habitants de Gusinjé-Plava, et on va même jusqu'à dire que la présence de l'armée Ottomane dans les districts avoisinants Gusinjé a servi et sert d'encouragement aux Albanais qui interpréteraient sa présence dans un sens favorable à la résistance. On n'a qu'à lire les deux Proclamations du Gouvernement Impérial pour y trouver le démenti le plus formel d'une

[*Sic*]

sachant pas dans quel but l'armée Impériale a été envoyée sur les confins, et comme le Commissaire Impérial a eu soin d'envoyer dans les principaux foyers de la résistance des Commissions composées des Notables les plus influents, et chargés de faire connaître à tous verbalement et par la voie des crieurs publics le contenu de ces Proclamations, l'accusation du Gouvernement Monténégrin porte à faux et ne saurait être considérée que comme une tentative destinée à induire en erreur les Grandes Puissances. Du reste, comme il a été porté à la connaissance de tous, [*sic*] bataillons de l'armée Impériale occupent Ipek qui est considéré comme l'un des districts les plus favorables aux Gusinjiotes. Il est vrai que notre Commissaire a lui-même signalé la présence à Gusinjé-Plava de 2,000 ou 3,000 Albanais; mais il me suffira de rappeler simplement les faits, qui sont d'ailleurs tout-à-fait notoires, pour établir que la responsabilité de cet état de choses ne peut nous incomber. Tandis que le Monténégro traitait avec mon prédécesseur l'échange de Gusinjé-Plava contre Kuči-Kraina, et qu'il devait répondre à l'avant-dernière proposition de la Sublime Porte, il a inopinément, et sans nous prévenir, concentré sur la frontière vingt-cinq bataillons de troupes. C'est alors que les Albanais sont accourus à Gusinjé. La Sublime Porte ne pouvait prévoir le mouvement des Monténégrins qui a provoqué l'affluence des Albanais à Gusinjé, et par conséquent prévenir et empêcher les renforts qui ont pu y pénétrer avant la nomination du Commissaire Impérial et l'arrivée de son armée à Prisrend et à Ipek. En effet, toutes mes communications portent que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas tardé à prendre des mesures pour empêcher les Albanais de renforcer Gusinjé; mais il ne pouvait jamais penser que le Monténégro concentrerait sur la frontière sans avis préalable vingt-cinq bataillons, et qu'il aurait menacé d'entrer de force dans Gusinjé. Le mouvement des Albanais n'est, on le voit, qu'une conséquence de la concentration inopinée des troupes Monténégrines, et il est évident que, si la Principauté avait prévenu la Sublime Porte de ses intentions, rien de pareil ne serait arrivé.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin se déclare aujourd'hui attaqué; mais nous prions les Puissances de se rappeler qu'avant cette agression deux autres ont été dirigées par les Monténégrins contre Gusinjé, et que la première a été effectuée bien avant la mission de son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha. Pourquoi donc accuser le Maréchal et son armée de cette concentration d'Albanais à Gusinjé, qui est antérieure à son action et provoquée incontestablement par l'impatience belliqueuse du Monténégro? Si le Prince avait répondu aux propositions d'échange de mon prédécesseur, avant d'irriter par ce malheureux envoi de troupes l'amour-propre d'une population guerrière, s'il n'avait pas

porté à son comble le désespoir des habitants de Gusinjé, s'il avait annoncé son intention d'envoyer sur la frontière des troupes, et s'il avait attendu la réponse de la Porte avant de l'exécuter, les passions ne se seraient pas excitées, le sang n'aurait pas coulé, et l'action du Gouvernement Ottoman aurait eu plus de prise sur les habitants de Gusinjé. Il ne faut point oublier que, le lendemain de ma nomination, M. Radonitz nous déclarait qu'effectivement vingt-cinq bataillons Monténégrins se trouvaient sur la frontière, et qu'ils devaient dans très-peu de jours pénétrer de force dans Gusinjé.

Le second point qui forme le sujet des représentations qu'on nous adresse porte sur Kuči-Kraina. On soutient que c'est aujourd'hui pour la première fois que nous pensons à faire valoir nos droits sur ce district. Cela est tout-à-fait inexact, et ne peut s'expliquer que par l'oubli de ce qui s'est passé à ce propos sous les deux précédents Ministères. Tellement il est vrai que nous nous sommes constamment préoccupés de nos droits sur Kuči-Kraina que dix mois entiers se sont passés en négociations entre mes prédécesseurs et la Principauté afin d'échanger ces districts contre celui de Gusinjé-Plava. Moi-même, j'ai traité cette question avec M. Radonitz, et j'ai voulu avoir à ce sujet le dernier mot de Son Altesse le Prince. Comment donc peut-on soutenir que nous avons gardé le silence sur Kuči-Kraina et que c'est aujourd'hui seulement que nous nous en souvenons dans l'intention insidieuse de compliquer la question de Gusinjé-Plava? La vérité est que le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas cessé un seul instant de revendiquer ses droits sur Kuči-Kraina et d'en demander la remise ou l'échange contre Gusinjé-Plava. Placé, par l'impatience des Monténégrins, vis-à-vis d'une nouvelle et considérable effusion de sang, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est préoccupé avant tout de la question d'humanité. Appelé par les conseils des Puissances, et surtout par ceux du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal d'Autriche-Hongrie, à signer un Acte formel de cession de Gusinjé-Plava, pays qui se trouve absolument dans les mêmes conditions que Kuči-Kraina, et en ce qui concerne sa délimitation définitive, le Gouvernement Ottoman a le droit et le devoir de réclamer par voie de réciprocité que le même Acte de Cession lui soit remis par le Gouvernement Monténégrin à propos de Kuči-Kraina. L'un et l'autre de ces deux actes sont subordonnés aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui doivent être appliquées sur les lieux par la Commission de Délimitation. Si Gusinjé-Plava revient au Monténégro par le Traité de Berlin, Kuči-Kraina nous revient en vertu de ce même Traité; et si la Commission n'a pas terminé ses travaux sur Kuči-Kraina, elle ne les a pas non plus commencés à Gusinjé-Plava. La délimitation exacte de ces deux districts aura lieu au printemps prochain par les Délégués des Puissances Signataires, seuls compétents en pareille matière. Les droits sont les mêmes, la situation est identique, pourquoi donc l'Acte de Cession doit-il être différent?

Comme dirigeant la politique extérieure de l'Empire Ottoman, je ne puis que m'affliger profondément en voyant que la Turquie semble seule jouir du triste privilége de réveiller des impressions pénibles toutes les fois qu'elle revendique les droits que lui confère le Traité de Berlin.

Il me reste à signaler un acte très-grave et tout-à-fait illégal qui est venu compliquer la situation et retarder la solution si heureusement préparée par son Excellence Moukhtar Pacha. Le Gouvernement Monténégrin, sous le prétexte d'avoir à réclamer du Gouvernement Ottoman des indemnités pour le retard survenu dans la solution de la question de Gusinjé-Plava, séquestre les propriétés des Musulmans des districts nouvellement annexés. Cet Acte par lequel un Gouvernement frappe de confiscation les propriétés de ses propres sujets sous le prétexte qu'un autre Gouvernement lui a occasionné des dommages, me semble tellement illégal que je m'abstiens de le discuter, étant sûr qu'il sera hautement réprouvé par l'Europe. Si je le signale c'est tout simplement pour indiquer ses conséquences fâcheuses sur l'esprit des habitants de Gusinjé-Plava qui ont vu, comme de raison, dans cet acte de leur nouveau Gouvernement la preuve d'une haine implacable contre la population Musulmane, et le présage pour eux-mêmes des plus grandes injustices.

Après les explications qui précèdent, j'espère que les Grandes Puissances voudront bien reconnaître à leur juste valeur les efforts et les sacrifices que le Gouvernement Impérial ne cesse de faire pour la solution de la question de Gusinjé-Plava, et je ne doute point que la conduite des deux Gouvernements étant mieux expliquée, elles ne veuillent bien adresser au Monténégro les conseils sévères que méritent son attitude dans toute cette affaire et son dernier acte concernant les propriétés des Musulmans.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 33.) *Pera, January* 19, 1880, 6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me very confidentially that money has been sent to Moukhtar Pasha, who hopes to buy over some of the Albanian Beys, and especially Ali Pasha and son, who are the leaders of the opposition to the surrender of Gussinjé. Some have already been secured, and if these two Chiefs can be also brought over, his Excellency thinks that the question will be settled. Should this plan fail, the Porte, his Excellency says, will have to devise other measures. I think that the Porte is now alarmed at the prospect of serious consequences in the spring unless the matter is arranged.

(Not sent to Mr. Green.)

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20.)

(No. 34.) *Pera, January* 19, 1880, 6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

COUNCIL of Ministers has at last adopted the sanatory measures that we have been pressing in the form we desired, and its decision now only awaits the Sultan's sanction.

No. 216.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 20, 11·35 A.M.)

(No. 35.) *Pera, January* 20, 1880, 10·10 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

COLONEL MILES telegraphs from Mosul that there is much distress there owing to scarcity of food and severity of winter. Extensive relief measures urgently requisite. Several deaths have occurred, and children are being sold and abandoned. No effective steps are taken by Local Government to afford relief.

People flocking in from neighbouring villages; increasing gravity of situation. Any assistance would be acceptable, and would be effectively distributed.

No. 217.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 6. Secret and Confidential.) *Foreign Office, January* 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 312, Secret and Confidential, of the 17th ultimo, on the subject of the steps taken by you to secure the compliance of Servia with her Treaty obligations in respect to the Servo-Turkish Commission appointed under the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have to state to you, in reply, that your action in this matter meets with my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 218.

Sir J. Pauncefote to Captain Sale.

Foreign Office, January 20, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acquaint you that his Lordship having expressed to the Secretary of State for War his hope that arrangements might be made for placing your services, as well as those of Lieutenant Caillard, again at the disposal of this Department, by the middle of April next, in time to proceed to Ragusa for the reopening of the Montenegrin Frontier Commission, which is fixed for the 1st May, Colonel Stanley has replied that, with the concurrence of his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief, he approves of this arrangement being carried into effect.

I am to add that Colonel Stanley states that as it is not possible to keep open the appointment of Secretary to the Engineer Committee, it will be necessary that you should resign that appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 219.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 3. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, January* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that the assertions of the Albanians that they have nothing to fear from the opposition of Moukhtar Pasha and his troops are now confirmed by information I have received from Jacova that a force of about 6,000 Mahommedans from the districts of Jacova and Ipek had left for Gussinjé within the last few days.

The native Christians both at Ipek and Jacova complain of violence and persecution at the hands of the Mahommedans, and at Ipek the disorder is so great that the bazaars have been closed for many days past.

Moukhtar Pasha's troops at Prisrend are suffering the greatest hardships from scanty clothing and bad and insufficient food. Numbers desert daily, whilst many seek relief by begging from house to house.

Many amusing stories are current about the negotiations between Moukhtar Pasha and Ali Pasha of Gussinjé for the surrender of the district to Montenegro, all tending to point out clearly the little need there is for accepting as serious the desire of the Turkish authorities to force the Albanians to submit.

I venture once more to express to your Lordship the conviction—which I have mentioned from the beginning, and which is, unfortunately, day by day strengthened—that the Porte cannot (not to say, will not) fulfil any of its promises about the surrender of Gussinjé.

I believe the power has now passed from its hands to do so; for the complete collapse of its finances has deprived it of all prestige with its subjects, and the recent success of the Albanians around Gussinjé against the Montenegrins will strengthen Mahommedans in their determination not to force their coreligionists to accept Christian rule.

Perhaps the time is close at hand when it will be advisable to seek some other way than through the Porte, which appears to have no longer in its hand sufficient executive strength in Albania to obtain the surrender of the territory apportioned to Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin, and to put an end to the anarchy which has sprung up on the borders of the countries which have been rescued from a similar state by the Austrian occupation and annexations to Servia and Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 220.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 13.) *Athens, January* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

M. COUMOUNDOUROS has told me that the Greek Commissioners had written for instructions, expressing at the same time their conviction that further Conferences could lead to no satisfactory results. From the last account they had received no answer to the note which they had addressed to their Ottoman colleagues.

M. Coumoundouros said that no instructions had yet been sent; they would, however, be sent shortly, and they would almost certainly be to the effect that the Greek Commissioners should break off the negotiations and return to Athens.

One of the Commissioners, Major Colocotroni, has already applied for leave of absence, which has been granted, and he is expected to arrive here on Monday next.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 221.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 21.)

(No. 37.) *Pera, January* 20, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN sent to tell me last night that he had sanctioned the Slave Trade Convention and the Protestant Constitution.

I hope to sign former in the course of this week. I shall propose that it shall come into effect three months after ratification, if you approve. Please let me know at once.

No. 222.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 24.) *Foreign Office, January* 21, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOURS No. 37.

I quite approve of your proposal with respect to the Slave Trade Convention.

No. 223.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 21, 11 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, January* 21, 1880, 5 P.M.

PRINCE having left on an excursion, I return to Scutari to-morrow.

His Highness authorized Austrian Minister to settle Gussinjé question, but not to effect exchange of outline; therefore Minister believes it is better to let Turkey and Montenegro disentangle them unassisted.

I have reason to suspect that it is not quite impossible Austria may permit Montenegro to make sudden descent on Scutari, which is almost defenceless, and hold it until Porte can surrender Gussinjé.

No. 224.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 62.) *Foreign Office, January* 21, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the 17th instant the French Ambassador, continuing a conversation which had taken place at the beginning of the week, gave a renewed expression to the desire of the French Government to have an answer from that of Her Majesty as to M. Waddington's proposals on the new frontier of Greece. I replied that if it was incumbent upon the Cabinets, by negotiations with each other, to trace absolutely the line that was to be recommended for the acceptance of the two Powers, we should not willingly take the responsibility of recommending the frontier proposed by the French Government as a

satisfactory solution of this difficult question. It appeared to us to be open to very serious objections. We by no means insisted that the general and necessarily vague suggestion which was included in the Protocol signed at Berlin was an immutable decision from which no variation could be permitted.

It was manifest that there were objections to that recommendation, whatever interpretation was given to it in detail, if it was to be taken as a precise delimitation instead of a general indication. But the proposal made by the French Government was far from meeting those objections, while it raised special difficulties of its own. In the first place, it contemplated a very large increase of the mileage of the territory conceded to Greece, and a very small concession was made to Turkey in Epirus, while a very large concession was exacted from Turkey in Thessaly. This feature in the proposal was not likely to recommend it to the acceptance of the Turkish Government, whose reluctance was the principal obstacle to be overcome, and, by furnishing that Government with a cogent argument on which its refusal could be justified, would assure it the support of its Mahommedan subjects. Again, it appeared, from the description given in the short *pro-memoriâ* communicated by the French Ambassador, that Metzovo was to fall to Greece. If that was so, the only pass by which Southern Epirus could be conveniently reached from Macedonia would be outside the limit of the Ottoman Empire, and the basin of the Kalamas, which had been conceded to Turkey as a compensation for the large surrender required of her in Thessaly, would be an untenable, and therefore useless, possession.

The French Ambassador dwelt much on the anxiety of the French Government to bring this thorny question to an early settlement, with the view of removing one of the causes of controversy by which a perfect agreement among the Powers upon Eastern questions was prevented; and he seemed to wish that if we did not accept the line of the French Government we should make some proposal of our own from which an issue to the discussion might be hoped. I pointed out to him the extreme difficulty of making such a delimitation in London or Paris. The success or failure of the task in which we were engaged would depend upon numerous local considerations, which could only be ascertained and estimated upon the spot. If we were pressed to draw a theoretical line based upon such knowledge as descriptions and maps could give to us, and were to depart from the immediate indication of the Protocol of Berlin, our preference would be for that which had been suggested by Signor Gubernatis, and which consisted generally in surrendering the valleys of the Peneus and the Aspromonte to Greece, and leaving Epirus to Turkey. This delimitation would, however, have to be so made as not to exclude the Pass of Metzovo from the Ottoman Empire. From Signor Gubernatis' line at least this benefit would result—that no territory would be included of which any important section of the inhabitants were profoundly hostile to Greece, or likely to be dangerous subjects to her. The line suggested at Berlin was open to the criticism that it neglected the aspirations of the Albanian nationality, who possessed both the will and the power to cause their feelings to be considered.

If the Plenipotentiaries had thought that they were supposed to be committing themselves to any irrevocable frontier, they would no doubt have insisted on more full information, both in respect to strategical considerations and to the feeling of nationalities, before their decision was taken.

But it seemed to Her Majesty's Government that the Powers would do more wisely if, instead of accepting either Signor Gubernatis' line or that now proposed by M. Waddington, they intrusted to an International Commission the task of making those minute inquiries which were a necessary preparation to any confident or safe decision. This Commission would necessarily be formed, as the others have been, of members nominated by the seven Signatory Powers. As far as England was concerned—of course we could pledge no one else—we were disposed to abide by the decisions to which the majority of the Commissioners should come. I impressed upon the French Ambassador that I made this proposition as a suggestion for consideration rather than as a definite pledge by which our Government could be bound, but I said that before considering it further I should be glad to know in what light it appeared to the French Government.

I have been informed unofficially—and I did not speak upon the point to the French Ambassador—that a proposition of this kind a short time ago was under discussion between the Cabinets of Paris and Berlin, and had commended itself to both those Governments. I do not exactly know the reason why, at a later period, M. Waddington proposed to act without the guidance which the labours of such a Commission would have afforded.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 225.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 3.) *Athens, January 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Greek Government are of opinion that there is now no possibility of the frontier question being settled by the Conference at present sitting at Constantinople, and they have therefore instructed their Commissioners to propose to the Representatives of the Porte that the question should be referred to the arbitration of the Great Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 226.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 16.) *Athens, January 15, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN answer to my inquiry as to the state of negotiations at Constantinople, M. Coumoundouros told me to-day that all communications between the Greek and Ottoman Commissioners had been suspended; that no instructions had been sent to the Greek Agents, and that, in all probability, when new instructions were sent, they would be to recall M. Bralias. M. Colocotroni, the Third Commissioner, has already returned to Athens on leave of absence.

M. Coumoundouros told me that the Government understood that some negotiations between the Great Powers were now being carried on with a view of arranging the frontier question, and that, it was said, Her Majesty's Government was the only Government which had not yet adhered to the proposed arrangement, whatever it might be, of which his Excellency professed ignorance.

I said that I was entirely ignorant of any such negotiations as he had mentioned being carried on at this moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 227.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 13. Secret.) *Constantinople, January 8, 1880.*

My Lord,

MAHMOUD NEDIM PASHA having sent a person to tell me that he desired to speak to me on a very serious matter, I called upon him this morning. His Highness began by saying that he viewed with the greatest alarm the present state of affairs. He was convinced that unless something were done, and that very soon, to arrest the evil influence now exercised over the Sultan's mind, and the policy pursued by his Ministers, the gravest consequences would very speedily ensue. He had been debating in his mind whether he should, by resigning, avoid the responsibility which must fall upon those who were bringing about the ruin of the Empire, or whether he should remain in the Government and make every effort and every sacrifice to save his country. As a Mussulman, an Osmanli, and a patriot, he had come to the conclusion that it was his duty to take the latter course. But he could not wage an unequal battle with his colleagues and the Sultan, unless he had strong support. He could only look for that support to the English Ambassador, for it was his deliberate conviction, whatever I might have heard to the contrary, that it was to the friendship and aid of England alone that Turkey could look for safety; without this she would inevitably perish.

His Highness then put into my hands a document which he declared had come to him from the most trustworthy source, and to the authenticity of which he pledged himself. He would not, however, tell me from whom he had obtained it, or allow me to have a copy of it. It was an explanation alleged to have been written by M. Fournier of his policy. It appeared to be an extract from a despatch or a letter. I have a strong

moral conviction that it came from the source to which it was attributed, although it furnished no absolute proof of the fact. It contained expressions identical with those which I know he has used on more than one occasion, and it is entirely in accordance with the policy he has of late pursued, as your Lordship may satisfy yourself from my despatches, and from other information which has reached the Foreign Office.

As I could only read this document somewhat hastily, I am unable to give more than its general purport, which was as follows:—

M. Fournier considers the Turkish Empire as absolutely rotten ("pourri"), and denounces its statesmen and public men as utterly incompetent and "canaille." He is convinced that it is doomed to speedy dissolution; but it should be the policy of France to maintain it for at least five years more. By that time she will be strong enough, and in a position, to take her part in the dismemberment of Turkey, and not to leave the lion's share to England and Austria. He is persuaded that he can contribute to this end by the measures he has taken. To accomplish it the influence of England must be opposed and thwarted everywhere and by every means. The Roman Catholic clergy must be employed throughout the Empire in counteracting that influence, and in preventing England from obtaining the sympathy and support of any of the Christian or other communities. Every attempt that Englishmen may make to obtain concessions for public works, or to invest their capital in Turkey, must be strenuously opposed; whenever an Englishman asks for a concession, a Frenchman must be put up to oppose him. If the Frenchman cannot prevent the granting of it, he must insist on having a share in it. M. Fournier declares himself ready to give his entire and energetic support, and to employ the whole influence of France to assist Frenchmen in such cases. Moreover, he advises that every encouragement should be given to Frenchmen to enter into industrial and other enterprises, and to invest capital, in Turkey.

He admits that in the present condition and prospects of the country the security offered for such objects may be indifferent or bad, and may act as a discouragement to French capitalists, but he advises that they should, nevertheless, be urged to accept whatever security can be had, on the ground that the more French capital is invested in Turkey, the more will French influence prevail and French interests be concerned, and the greater right will France have, when the break-up of the Empire takes place, to have her share in the spoils. Means will then be found to indemnify those who may have risked their money.

M. Fournier concludes by saying that he has secured the means of carrying out his plans. He has taken the measure of the Turks, and has got his agents at the Porte and in the Palace.

The Sultan can only be guided by fear, and through these agents (one of them, I presume, being M. Dreyssé) he has succeeded in inspiring His Majesty with such suspicion of the designs of England and Austria as will prevent him from adopting any advice, or accepting any suggestions, coming from those quarters.

Such is the general subtance of this singular document. It appears to have made a deep impression on Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, who, in commenting upon it, observed that he had every reason to believe that the views of M. Fournier as regards the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, and the policy to be pursued with regard to it, corresponded with those entertained by Russia, and that he had been very much struck by the fact that, in all parts of the East, French and Russian agents appeared to be now acting together. The object of France and Russia was evidently to destroy the Empire, that of England to preserve it. How, then, could any doubt be felt as to which side he would and ought to take? He again asked me whether he could count upon my support in the struggle that he was ready to enter upon with the Sultan and his advisers. If I were prepared to give him my support, what was the policy that I advocated? It was necessary that he should learn it in order to decide upon the plan that should be followed.

I replied that the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and consequently my policy, must be too well known to him to require much explanation. England desired the preservation of the Ottoman Empire, but could only help to maintain it on the condition that all classes of the Sultan's subjects were justly and equally governed, and that they were contented. It was for this reason especially that Her Majesty's Government were pressing reforms upon the Porte which they considered absolutely necessary to satisfy the legitimate requirements of the populations, Christian and Mussulman. If those populations were satisfied, and were disposed to remain under the Sultan's rule, any attempt on the part of Russia to annex further Turkish territory in Asia would be resisted by England as a wanton aggression; if, on the

contrary, they were oppressed and ill-treated, no English Government could interfere to maintain that rule over them, nor would probably be able to hold out a hand to save the Empire. It was in order to enable Her Majesty's Government to pursue this policy, and to assist the Porte itself in carrying out the necessary reforms, and for no other objects, that Her Majesty's Government had occupied Cyprus with the Sultan's sanction, and had sent military Consuls into Asia Minor. As regards the support he asked me to give him, I would give it cordially to any Turkish statesman who would loyally enter upon the policy I had indicated.

His Highness thanked me for my explanation with regard to the nomination of Consuls and to the occupation of Cyprus, as it would enable him, he hoped, to remove from the Sultan's mind the suspicions that had been instilled into it, he said, by "certain Ambassadors as well as by certain Ministers," that both these measures had been taken by England with a view to undermining the authority of His Majesty and of annexing his Asiatic provinces. The same Ambassadors and Ministers had led the Sultan to believe that the announcement of the arrival of the British fleet in Turkish waters was an empty menace, and that my action in the Koelle affair was the same. They had persuaded him that he had only to be firm in resisting England for her to give way. His Highness strongly urged that in no case should England recede, as it only encouraged her enemies when she did so. He ended a long interview by stating that he would consider, and let me know, how I could best support him, with a view of putting an end to a state of things which he felt was rapidly bringing ruin upon the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 228.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 44.) *Constantinople, January* 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Circular addressed by Sawas Pasha to the Heads of Missions, defending and explaining the new Judicial Regulations which were put in force when Saïd Pasha, the present Prime Minister, was Minister of Justice. It is an answer to the numerous complaints which have come from all parts of the Empire against them.

His Excellency attributes these complaints to the resentment of functionaries who have been deprived of authority and influence in consequence of the Tribunals having been rendered independent of the Executive, and of Consular Agents, who can no longer claim to interfere in the administration of justice. The many complaints that have been addressed to this Embassy by Her Majesty's Consuls on this subject are not certainly to be attributed to the reason assigned. Every one will admit that, in principle, the independence of the Tribunals is very necessary to the proper administration of justice. The objections to the new Regulations are founded upon the fact, unfortunately too notorious, that the Judges who preside over the Tribunals are, for the most part, ignorant, incompetent, and corrupt; that the persons who have been selected to carry out the new system as Inspectors and "Procureurs-Généraux" bear, in very many instances, the same character; that bad as was the administration of justice before the recent change, it is still more unsatisfactory now; and that the fees now demanded are so high, and the necessity for giving bribes so imperative, that people will rather lose their property and suffer injury and wrong than appeal to the Courts.

Sawas Pasha does not altogether deny that there is truth in these accusations, but he insinuates that they would apply to all countries on the first introduction of a new judicial system. He maintains that in time, and with proper supervision, the causes for the complaints made against Saïd Pasha's Regulations will be removed. He points to Greece, Servia, Roumania, and the autonomous provinces as having, by similar legislation, resolved the problem of the proper administration of justice. But he forgets to mention that no sooner had those States and provinces been removed from the direct interference of the Porte than justice was fairly and substantially administered, and that the complaints so general in Turkey against the Tribunals almost entirely ceased. The Island of Crete affords a striking instance of this fact. It is the inveterate corruption which unhappily exists in every Department and amongst all classes in Turkey which renders all real reform of the Tribunals impossible. Let this corruption cease, let honest and capable Judges be provided, and every one would welcome a law which would secure

the independence of the Tribunals from all control on the part of the Executive authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 7, 1880.

LA RÉFORME JUDICIAIRE.—Son Excellence Sawas Pacha a remis aux Chefs des Missions la Note Circulaire suivante :—

"Par deux notes précédentes j'ai eu l'honneur de vous transmettre les lois et règlements concernant la nouvelle organisation de la justice en Turquie.

"Pour faire ressortir la nature et les conséquences de cette réforme fondamentale, il est nécessaire d'entrer dans quelques considérations sur lesquelles j'appelle toute votre attention.

"La justice s'est, de tout temps, exercée en Turquie indépendamment de l'Administration sous les auspices de la loi Islamique qui, extraite comme les lois de toutes les nations, d'un texte sacré, a été portée par les jurisconsultes Arabes à un degré de développement approchant celui du droit Romain. Cette loi prescrit et exige l'indépendance des Tribunaux. Aussi, le Cadi a-t-il de tout temps exercé ses fonctions de Juge avec la plus grande indépendance et sans la moindre immixtion du pouvoir administratif, faisant exécuter ses sentences par des huissiers ('mouhzirs'), attachés à l'institution du Mehkémé et ne relevant que d'elle. Après le Hatt de Gulhané seulement, le Cadi ayant été nommé membre du Conseil Administratif de la province, en la même qualité que l'Evêque et le Rabbin, le Tribunal s'est trouvé en quelque sorte fondu dans un Corps Administratif, et il en est résulté dans tout l'Empire un fatal mélange d'attributions et des institutions hybrides que l'on a pu constater dans le "Medjlissi-Vala" (Conseil Suprême), qui a fonctionné jusque dans ces derniers temps à Constantinople et qui était, en même temps, le Conseil Administratif et le Tribunal Suprême de l'Empire.

"Plus tard, les Tribunaux Mixtes ont été institués dans le but de séparer la justice de l'Administration. Il semblait, en effet, que ces institutions étaient appelées à vivre d'une existence propre et indépendante, et cette croyance a joui d'un tel crédit que deux fois le Sultan Abd-ul-Aziz, d'heureuse mémoire, a déclaré dans des discours prononcés à la Sublime Porte, que la séparation du pouvoir administratif du pouvoir judiciaire pouvait être considérée comme accomplie.

"Malheureusement, les hommes d'Etat si éminents qui se sont succédé au pouvoir pendant le règne précédent ne s'étaient pas aperçus, faute d'une expérience concluante, que les fonctionnaires administratifs—Valis, Mutessarifs, Caïmacans, ou Mudirs, restant chargés des attributions du Ministère Public et de l'exécution des sentences la séparation proclamée était condamnée à rester lettre-morte.

"Il y a plus : ces fonctionnaires administratifs avaient seuls le droit de permettre, au moyen de leur apostile ('havalé') l'introduction des requêtes par devant les Tribunaux et seuls pouvaient rendre les sentences exécutoires en les revêtant d'un Décret d'exequatur ordonnant leur mise à exécution.

"Le simple caprice d'un fonctionnaire infime dans la hiérarchie administrative suffisait donc pour rendre nulle la sentence d'un Tribunal ou pour enrayer la marche de la justice en empêchant tout recours et tout appel de se produire. Si nous ajoutons à cette situation la suprématie qu'exerçaient en leur qualité de Procureurs les fonctionnaires administratifs soit pour accuser, soit pour défendre les prévenus, nous ferons aisément comprendre que le système judiciaire péchait par la base et qu'on ne devait pas espérer une amélioration quelconque dans la société Ottomane à moins d'une réforme radicale de notre régime judiciaire. Cette réforme a été entreprise sous les inspirations civilisatrices de Sa Majesté le Sultan avec une grande énergie et avec une parfaite connaissance des exigences de l'époque par le Premier Ministre Son Altesse Saïd Pacha, qui était alors Ministre de la Justice, et cette lourde tâche a été poursuivie avec un incontestable succès.

"Le Code de Procédure Civile et Criminelle qui avait été élaboré sur la base de la législation des pays les plus avancés de l'Europe a été publié. Le Ministère Public et le corps des Huissiers ont été créés ; enfin le corps des Notaires a été institué.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant adopté, après des essais et des tâtonnements qui duraient depuis un demi siècle, la législation Européenne et les institutions

judiciaires qui en découlent, a certainement droit à l'éloge et aux félicitations des Gouvernements éclairés de l'Europe et de leurs représentants.

"Entrer immédiatement après ses désastres aussi courageusement qu'il l'a fait dans la voie tracée par le droit moderne est un acte dont la portée et les conséquences méritent d'être hautement appréciées.

"Malheureusement, les conditions vicieuses au milieu desquelles la société Ottomane se débat avec une énergie digne de toutes le sympathies du monde civilisé, maintiennent un état de choses peu propre à mettre fin aux abus qu'une longue habitude avait fini par faire considérer comme inscrit dans le droit intérieur et international de l'Empire.

"Ainsi, il est arrivé que quelques fonctionnaires administratifs naturellement dépouillés des attributions de Procureur et d'Huissier, et par conséquent de leur influence sur la distribution de la justice, n'ont point été favorables à l'établissement à côté d'eux des desservants de la justice, qui leur étaient souvent supérieurs par le savoir et l'indépendance. Il n'y a pas jusqu'à certaines agences Consulaires qui dans les provinces n'aient vu avec défiance et regret l'introduction d'un régime nouveau qui supprime bien des occasions d'exercer leur influence dans les détails de l'administration de la justice. Il est vrai que la plupart des consuls de carrière font exception à cette règle; mais il n'est pas moins vrai qu'eux aussi se laissent quelquefois influencer par leurs nationaux et leurs subalternes peu favorables aux nouvelles institutions.

"Les Primats des différents pays qui ont toujours figuré comme membres des Conseils Administratifs et qui en cette qualité ont pu influencer la justice, se trouvent aujourd'hui réduits, par la nouvelle organisation, les égaux des autres citoyens et justiciables au même titre qu'eux des Tribunaux réguliers. Cette situation les vexe, comme de nature, au plus haut degré, et les force à réagir contre le nouveau système. Ils ne se font point scrupule de le représenter aux yeux des étrangers comme impropre ou prématuré.

"La nouvelle organisation a dû, on le voit, déplaire à un grand nombre de personnes et aller à l'encontre d'une foule d'intérêts. Il n'est pas, par conséquent, étonnant que l'on cherche à la critiquer et, s'il est possible, à l'étouffer dans son berceau.

"Ne pouvant pas en faire l'objet d'une critique directe on cherche à l'atteindre par des imputations indirectes portant tant sur la situation de la société Ottomane que sur les personnes qui ont été chargées de l'application des nouvelles lois. Les unes et les autres sont également mal fondées. Nous allons le démontrer.

"Si l'on allègue que la société Ottomane n'est pas à même et ne mérite pas encore d'être régie des institutions judiciaires perfectionnées, nous répondrons par les faits suivants:—

"1. Il y a cinquante ans, quand la Grèce s'est séparée de la Turquie, elle n'était qu'une province Ottomane et on ne peut pas admettre qu'en 1827 le Péloponèse possédât plus de lumières que les autres provinces Ottomanes n'en possèdent en 1880;

"2. La Serbie et la Roumanie, la petite Ile de Samos, ont introduit d'emblée la législation que nous venons d'adopter et ont résolu ainsi le problème de la distribution de la justice;

"3. Les pays, qui après nos derniers désastres ont été érigés en provinces autonomes, n'ont également point hésité à chercher leur salut et leur prospérité dans les institutions judiciaires dont on s'efforce de faire accroire que la nation Ottomane est incapable ou indigne de bénéficier, sans penser que les principes fondamentaux de ces institutions sont inscrits dans la loi Islamique.

"La seconde objection est moins sérieuse encore que la première. Dans tous les pays les institutions naissantes ont été confiées au commencement à des fonctionnaires jeunes dans la profession, et ce n'est que par le temps et par la multiplication des hommes spéciaux que le fonctionnement de ces institutions a pu atteindre une certaine perfection relative.

"Si on devait attendre que des jurisconsultes de premier ordre fussent formés en Turquie, avant de mettre la réforme en pratique, on condamnerait le pays à vivre pendant plusieurs lustres encore sous l'ancien régime. En outre, comme dans l'ancien système les hommes spéciaux n'étaient pas nécessaires, peu d'Ottomans se décideraient si on ne changeait pas ce système, à se préparer, par des études spéciales, pour une carrière qui ne serait point encore ouverte.

"Si l'on doute de l'exactitude de ce que nous venons d'avancer, on n'a qu'à se rappeler quel était l'état du corps médical Ottoman, il y a quarante ans, et à jeter un regard sur son organisation due au règne glorieux du Sultan Abdul Medjid, organisation qui, en créant la carrière, a fait appel à l'intérêt individuel auquel on doit le corps médical

indigène fort respectable qui existe actuellement en Turquie. Il en sera absolument de même du personnel judiciaire, et Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul-Hamid Khan, aura l'impérissable gloire d'avoir fondé la magistrature judiciaire et assuré à ses sujets une bonne distribution de la justice, base fondamentale du bien-être de toutes les nations.

"Les rouages qui ont été inaugurés par les nouvelles lois sont ceux qui existent dans tous les pays civilisés:—

"1. Les Tribunaux de Première Instance, d'Appel, et de Cassation dont les Présidents et les membres sont payés et qui sont pourvus de Greffiers, de Secrétaires, et de Juges-Instructeurs, et devant lesquels les Avocats sont admis à plaider;

"2. Des Procureurs-Généraux et Impériaux chargés des mêmes attributions qu'en Europe;

"3. Des corps d'Huissiers attachés aux Tribunaux ne relevant que d'eux et fonctionnant sous leur responsabilité;

"4. Des bureaux de Notaires ayant pour but de donner une forme plus correcte et plus authentique aux transactions sociales.

"Ce mécanisme avait besoin d'être surveillé pendant son installation et pendant les premiers temps de son fonctionnement, par des hommes spéciaux et expérimentés ayant servi pendant longtemps et jouissant du prestige que confère une haute position acquise au service de l'Etat.

"C'est pour remplir cette indication capitale qu'on a formé une institution qui n'existe pas en Europe, c'est-à-dire le corps des Inspecteurs Judiciaires. Il me suffirait de nommer quelques-uns d'entre eux pour démontrer que ces fonctions ont été confiées aux plus dignes. Du reste, l'Inspecteur des Affaires Judiciaires remplit dans chaque vilayet le rôle de Directeur de la Justice et doit être considéré comme un *adlatus* du Vali pour tout ce qui a trait aux questions judiciaires.

"Le système que je viens de résumer est, du reste, sans comparaison, plus simple que celui qu'il est appelé à remplacer. Il supprime la double qualité de Tribunal de Première et de Seconde Instance dont étaient revêtues toutes les Cours des Mutessarifliks; il fait cesser par conséquent l'abus de l'appel multiple; il supprime les institutions inconnues en Europe et contraires au droit Musulman qui ont fonctionné jusqu'ici sous la dénomination de "Comité des Renvois" et "Comité d'Exécution," ainsi qu'une foule de formalités judiciaires dont l'énumération ne saurait être comprise dans le cadre de la présente note mais qui sont connues de tous. Il est donc appelé à mettre fin à un état de choses que la science du droit et une longue expérience ont également condamné.

"Ayant ainsi expliqué la réforme si importante qui vient de s'accomplir, je ne prétends pas mettre les détails de son exécution à l'abri de la critique. Je reconnais au contraire, qu'institution et personnel ont besoin d'une surveillance active et persévérante. L'institution doit être maintenue dans ses lignes réglementaires, et le personnel doit être épuré, de jour en jour, par l'élimination des membres qui se montreraient incapables ou indignes de la confiance du Gouvernement et leur remplacement par des sujets plus recommandables.

"Ce que je me suis proposé de faire par cette longue analyse est de mettre le système à l'abri des attaques de la malveillance, et de mettre l'opinion en garde contre des préventions mal fondées et souvent intéressées que je crois avoir suffisamment indiquées. Je suis persuadé que mes explications franches et loyales rencontreront des dispositions non moins bienveillantes et sincères qui nous aideront à vaincre les résistances, de quelque part qu'elles viennent, et à disposer les Gouvernements étrangers à n'accueillir qu'avec une prudente réserve les plaintes qui viendraient à se produire. C'est ainsi que la nouvelle institution traversera sûrement les vicissitudes inhérentes aux débuts de toute réforme importante et radicale et que le système judiciaire Ottoman pourra dans un avenir prochain être compté parmi ceux des nations civilisées.

"Demandant, comme je viens de faire, votre concours bienveillant et juste pour assurer le succès d'une institution aussi importante que celle qui nous préoccupe actuellement, je suis sûr de rencontrer auprès de vous un accueil favorable et empressé."

No. 229.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 46.) *Constantinople, January 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH I believe the letter of which I inclose a translation to be a pure fabrication, yet it may deserve your Lordship's attention. It is published by the "Terdjoumani Hakikat," a newspaper which I have described to your Lordship in my previous despatch No. 45 of the 9th January, as extremely hostile to England, and as representing the views of an influential party in the Palace, and whose editor is, at the same time, believed to be in Russian pay. If what the letter in question states about valuable presents having been sent from India to the Emperor of Russia be true, the Indian Government would no doubt have been aware of the fact.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Hakikat."

(Traduction.)

LA RUSSIE ET LES INDES.—Les populations des Indes qui n'avaient jusqu'ici aucune relation avec l'Empereur de Russie, viennent de jeter les bases d'une nouvelle amitié en préparant une quantité de riches présents Indiens qu'ils ont envoyés par l'entremise d'un Envoyé Spécial de l'Empereur, et qui ont été distribués à St. Pétersbourg parmi tous les Ministres, sous la dénomination d'une "nouvelle conquête." Cette nouvelle authentique m'a été donnée par un Indien qui vient de m'écrire. Il dit dans sa lettre, que ce fait est la conséquence de l'attitude que le Gouvernement Anglais a prise vis-à-vis de la Turquie, à laquelle, après lui avoir promis maintes fois son assistance s'est dans la suite abstenu de la lui donner. Cette attitude a progressivement provoqué de l'étonnement au sein de la population Indienne, et il n'y a pas de doute que des événements surprenants finiront par se produire.

Il serait bon que vous insériez cette lettre dans votre respectable journal.

(Signé) Le Musulman Impartial.

No. 230.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 48.) *Constantinople, January 9, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an article from the semi-official paper, the "Turquie," on the recent seizure of a Greek church by the Bulgarians at Philippopoli. The writer states that it will be curious to see what attitude will be taken in this affair by certain Powers which have recently constituted themselves the guardians of liberty of conscience. It does not, however, mention that, owing to the remonstrances of the Consular Body, on the initiation of Her Majesty's Consul-General, the Governor-General was compelled to surrender the key, and the Bulgarians the church, to the Greeks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 8, 1880.

NOUS appelons l'attention de nos lecteurs sur la dépêche de Philippopoli que nous publions dans notre numéro de ce jour. Elle donne des détails précis sur un fait de la plus haute gravité.

Dans la nuit de Noël, entre 2 et 3 heures du matin, les miliciens Bulgares en armes et suivis d'un grand nombre de Bulgares ont pénétré dans l'église Grecque appartenant au Patriarcat. Le prêtre Grec qui officiait a été arrêté; on lui a substitué

un prêtre Bulgare. Le trésorier a été expulsé après avoir été frappé par deux fois du plat d'un sabre-baïonnette.

Après divers incidents, les clés ont été portés à Aleko Pacha, qui refuse de les restituer au propriétaire, au clergé Grecque. L'agitation est grande à Philippopoli.

Il a été beaucoup question dans ces derniers temps de liberté de conscience. En cette circonstance elle est violée d'une manière flagrante et avec cette aggravation, que les Bulgares violent en même temps le droit de propriété.

Il sera vraiment curieux de voir l'attitude que vont prendre en cette affaire certaines Puissances qui se sont récemment constituées avec ardeur et plus ou moins d'opportunisme les gardiennes de la liberté de conscience.

Philippopoli est à une trop courte distance de Constantinople pour que chacun dans le pays ne s'empresse d'établir la comparaison que motivera cette attitude et d'en tirer un précieux enseignement.

No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 9, 1880.*

THE documents, of which I have the honour to inclose copies, relating to the intrigues of Russia in Macedonia, have been put into my hands by the Greek Patriarch. The Greek Bishop who brought them to me, begged me, in His Holiness' name, to do what I could to prevail upon the Porte not to accede to the suggestions of Russia to permit the nomination of Bulgarian Bishops in Macedonia, the object of Russia in having them appointed being to "bulgarise" the province at the expense of the Greeks, and to bring about the formation of the Bulgaria of the Treaty of San Stefano.

His Holiness further complains that the Bulgarians, incited and supported by Russia, are endeavouring to stamp out the Greek element in Eastern Roumelia and in other parts of European Turkey, in which there is a Slav population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Extract from Letter of the Metropolitan of Salonica to Greek Patriarch.

(Traduction.) *Le 23 Décembre, 1879.*

JE me suis informé par des gens du Consulat Russe qu'il s'agit que des Métropolitains relevant de l'Exarchie Bulgare soient envoyés en Salonique, Strounitza, Kiuprulu, et Uskup. Outre l'école des garçons Bulgares qui existe déjà ici, une autre école des filles y est fondée depuis lundi passé, 17 Décembre. La maîtresse de cette école est venue de Kiuprulu. Le Conseil-Général de Russie travaille activement. On vient de visiter incessamment de Kiuprulu, de Kilikis, et d'autres endroits plus éloignés comme, Stipie, &c., sous les yeux de la Préfecture, dont en plusieurs reprises j'ai en vain attiré l'attention sur ce sujet. Tout cela, ainsi que le contenu d'une lettre adressée de Sophia, où réside un Comité, aux agents de la propogande à Gebgeli, prouvent que les intrigues des Panslavistes sont en train de prendre une nouvelle et plus grave intensité. Cette lettre, dont je vous envoie la copie, qui est tombée entre mes mains, porte pour signature les initiales "N. H. C." (Nicolas Hadji Constantin), étudiant de Gebgeli à Sophia, mais les pensées qui y sont exprimées sont trop au-dessus de l'âge de l'adolescent. Dans Tikres, après le passage de ce pays d'Agent de Russie en Monastère, M. Jappa, qui se rendait chez le Consul-Général à Salonique, M. Hitrovo, une requête portant le sceau d'un seul village de Negotine, et environ trente-cinq signatures de cette requête déclarent qu'ils ne reconnaissent pas le prélat Grec, qu'ils demandent un prélat Bulgare, et qu'ils en inviteront un d'eux-mêmes si le Pacha Gouverneur le leur refuse. Cette pétition fut lu au Conseil (Medjliss) en mon absence, provenue d'une maladie dont j'ai souffert depuis un mois et dont je relève à peine. Il fut arrêté au Conseil que cette pétition serait transmise à la Sublime Porte.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Nicolas Hadji Constantin to Chiefs of Bulgarian Community.

(Traduction.) *Sophia, le 23 Octobre*, 1879.

J'AI plus d'un motif de vous faire mes grands remercîments pour la bonté que vous avez eue pour moi et qui est une indice d'humanité et d'amour des lettres pour le but proposé et un signe d'ardeur fervente pour le progrès de ma patrie. Je vous prie, Messieurs, de conserver toujours le même zèle pour le soutien et le maintien de la nationalité Bulgare de cet endroit, et de persévérer sans cesse dans la revendication de nos droits incontestables que la loi elle-même nous a accordés. Le plus essentiel est que vous tâchiez à maintenir constamment une école Bulgare avec un maître choisi et éprouvé, et non comme celui que vous avez à présent; car le proverbe dit qu'une école, dont le maître n'est pas capable, ressemble à un jardin qui n'a pas d'eau. Il faut, en outre, que vous surveilliez que les Hellénistes ne vous ferment pas l'école. Si vous faites tout cela, soyez sûrs que nos ennemis arriveront à la décomposition. Jesus-Christ dit: "Ne craignez pas ceux qui tuent votre corps, mais ceux qui tuent votre âme."

Ici on a eu soin de fonder à Salonique une école Bulgare, bien entretenue par la communauté Bulgare d'ici. Il est donc nécessaire que vous demandiez aussi tout ce qui vous manque, et soyez sûrs qu'il vous sera accordé avec plaisir. Ne perdez point de vue que tous les Bulgaristes vous devez être unis, car l'unison fait la force. Je vous envoie ma photographie.

(Signé) NICOLAS HADJI CONSTANTIN.

No. 232.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 22.*)

(No. 53.)

Constantinople, January 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a petition which has been sent me by certain Mussulmans of Bulgaria, complaining of the unjust treatment they receive at the hands of the Bulgarian Government. This petition incloses a correspondence with the Prince of Bulgaria on the same subject, translations of which I also inclose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Petition from Inhabitants of Varna, Paravadi, Rasgrad, and Shumla.

(Translation.)

To Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy, Constantinople.

WE beg to submit to your Excellency the petitions which we presented to Prince Alexander, containing a request that our service in the army should be delayed for a short time, and a few especial requests concerning the administration of security and freedom, which, though promised by the Berlin Treaty to the Mussulman people, have not yet been obtained, and which have been presented to the "Medjliss Mebouean" (Council) opened at Sophia for the second time, and dissolved for the reasons known. And we beg also to present a copy of the translated answer of Prince Alexander.

From these your Excellency will see that although Prince Alexander promised to take into serious consideration the other requests, he would not agree to the postponement of military service. Whilst the rights of equality which were guaranteed by the Berlin Treaty and conferred by the Great Powers remain in abeyance, at the present time Mussulmans going from one vilayet to another, or journeying in the country, are compelled to go with death always before their eyes, and if any make complaint to a Law Court he is sure to be found in the wrong. And besides this the gendarmes, under pretence of searching for arms, break into the houses and carry off the money and goods; and all kinds of barbarities are practised on the people. And, moreover, the lands of

some of the Mussulmans are taken from them and given to the Bulgarian refugees coming from Roumeli-Sharki.

Thus in many ways the Mussulmans are becoming ruined and are losing heart. Thus, although their privileges are not granted to them, yet they are expected to give military service, and thus they are in great despair, and they understand that as no hope of security remains to them it is intended to extirpate them and to expel them from Bulgaria. Yet, notwithstanding, the general desire to obtain respite from service does not arise from disobedience to the decrees of the Government, but simply from the fact that during the troubles of the last three years they have been oppressed and forced to abandon all their goods and to emigrate, and that they have suffered all kinds of hardships and troubles, and are in great actual need and want.

Therefore we acquaint your Excellency with the troubles which we have to undergo at this present time, and inform you that these troubles will force us to emigrate again, which we pray your Excellency to prevent; and we ask, too, that a respite of military service should be granted to us on the grounds we have stated; and it is with this desire that we have determined to present the Embassies at Constantinople of the Powers who signed the Berlin Treaty with the note and its inclosures, in order to attract towards us their compassion and generosity. We therefore inclose your Excellency a copy together with the accompanying papers.

December $\frac{14}{26}$, 1879.

(Signed by) An Inhabitant of Varna.
An Inhabitant of Paravadi.
An Inhabitant of Rasgrad.
Two Inhabitants of Shumla.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Petition presented by Mussulman Bulgarians to Prince Alexander of Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

THE speech of His Highness in the Chamber lately contained the grateful news of the completion of the causes which would bring about peace and security to his people, and was very acceptable to the works of the people, and is worthy of being written on the first page of history with a pen of gold. In the name of the people we wish to thank His Highness. We are also anxious to express our pleasure upon hearing that His Highness gave us assurances that our rights would be protected, that about 2,000 soldiers would be required from us, and that steps would be taken in accordance with our religious principles.

We give assurances that we will not be backward in making progress to the best of our abilities, and in living in peace and tranquillity, and in endeavouring to perform our duties straightforwardly. Coming to the question of military service, supposing that we are part of the Bulgarian people, and, being of one nation, wishing to live on an equal footing under a code which gave us all equal rights, we are promised freedom and justice, it is evident we have nothing to say except obedience to the commands of the Government concerning military service, and the other injunctions of the Law Code. But, as is well known to your Highness, in the matter of military service the Mussulmans are deserving of some compassion, and we would attract your Highness' notice to the matter a moment.

In the first place, the Mussulmans have given their children as soldiers—their brothers, their relations; and the greater number of these have as yet not returned; thus the Mussulmans are in great need of help in their labours. Secondly, during the war they were so miserable that those who were formerly rich and powerful are now perishing, and those who are labourers have lost their horses and other means of carrying on their work. It is not necessary to show how many years it will require for the Mussulmans to regain their former position. Ten years, at least, is necessary before he will be even able to get himself a servant to look after his work. Thus, if of two children one be taken for military service, the father, certainly if an old man who depended on his sons, will be prevented from his business or his agriculture, and will not be able to flee from poverty and want, and will perhaps starve, and thus becomes a burden upon the Government.

Moreover, in many places, there is no security for life or property, and the Government officials and the gendarmes perform many tyrannous acts, so that the Mussulman population will be compelled to abandon their fatherland, and some to flee

to Roumania and some to other places. As long as these evils continue, and until the Mussulmans see that there is security for life and property, and until they can be freed from want and acquire some degree of prosperity, they will desire to emigrate, unless military service is secured them.

We beg your Highness to take all this into consideration, and, if nothing else be done, grant that eight or ten years exemption be given to Mussulmans, and at the end of that time all people whose rights have been restored to them will be disposed to serve; therefore we ask that the laws for service and recruitment, in order to be made known to every one, may be printed in Turkish.

November 24
December 6, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 232.

Second Petition from Mussulman Bulgarians to Prince of Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

AS your Highness is aware, a man's wish to live in his country is dependent, in the first place, on security of life, honour, and property; and, secondly, on the good administration of justice; and, thirdly, on the free use of his religious principles. The people who are not thus endowed are compelled to leave their homes and country, and to take refuge in the compassion of a just Ruler. The Treaty of Berlin and the laws of Bulgaria gave to all people who were to live in that country a pledge of security, and to such an extent that those who had before quitted their country had began to return to it again. It is to be regretted that by reason of these laws not having been properly observed by certain officials, the following abuses have arisen:—

Justice has not been shown to Mussulmans in the Law Courts. Here and there murders have occurred; robbers have been plundering houses; all kinds of unheard barbarities have been practised. Men have been robbed of their goods and chattels. If near any Mussulman village robbers attack a Bulgarian or kill him, that Mussulman village, without any inquiry, is held responsible, and by orders of the officials of the caza, the villagers are compelled to give up all their property to the gendarmes and Bulgarians, and live in terror of their lives. If a Mussulman is killed near a Bulgarian village no complaints are listened to. The Bulgarian refugees who are taking refuge hither from Roumeli Sharki are given land belonging to Mussulmans, and which the same have sown and harvested, as well as their houses.

The arms of the Mussulmans have been all collected, and handed over and distributed to the Bulgarians. Under pretence of looking for arms gendarmes repeatedly enter Islam houses, and commit all kinds of cruelties. If zaptiehs or their officers do any wrong no complaint is listened to by the higher officials. Moreover, he who deserves punishment is rewarded; but if he be a Turk, without examination and without sentence, he is imprisoned, and while there his goods and property go to wreck and ruin. These sort of things are increasing every day, and the Mussulman population is, in consequence, in great despair.

There was a hope that your Highness intended to put an end to all these lawless acts, and to put on a firm basis those laws which would enable all to live in quiet and security; but now the Mussulmans are leaving their country. It would be wearisome to submit to your Higness the papers proving what is herein alleged, but we should wish to submit the following requests to your Majesty:—

1. Restoration of peace and security, and protection of our down-trodden rights.

2. The prevention of the cruelties practised by certain officials, and gendarmes and soldiers in search of robbers.

3. The existence of a certain number of Mussulmans, according to the exigencies of the place, as life members in every Law Court.

4. That the elections should be properly carried out.

5. The appointment of a Commission formed of those who are versed in agriculture, to allot lands to Bulgarian refugees, and to settle them in fitting and fertile places, and thus put an end to taking other men's lands and means of livelihood

6. That no one should be imprisoned without sentence, and if any man is imprisoned for any reason that the examination should immediately take place, and if found guilty to be punished, or, if not, to be set free.

7. To appoint officials to find out good or bad employés, and to listen to the complaints of the people.

8. Those who are entering the gendarmerie should be compelled, of whatever nationality they may be, to find strong bail and good proof of their being worthy men, and that they should not be accepted unless they can do so.

9. The return to us of the arms taken from us, and put into Government armories, or given to our Bulgarian compatriots; and if, while the Bulgarians are armed, we should still be forbidden to carry arms or to keep them in our houses, that the money taken from the places where they are given should be handed over to the owners, and that the gendarmes who now, under pretence of searching for arms, sack the villages, terrify the women and children, and carry off the valuables, should be prevented, and those who carry arms without a licence should be forbidden, but that arms should be given to Mussulmans, under strong bail, for protection of their persons.

10. Funds should be given to those in want from the Orphanage Treasury, and to prevent present abuses these treasuries should be given to the national Medjlisses to distribute.

11. That the Government officials should be prevented from interfering with the "Naïbs" who have been sent to inquire into certain cases of change of faith which have taken place among Mussulmans.

12. As other nationalities have a spiritual member ("reis rouhané"), so the Mussulmans should have a fitting man sent from Constantinople to fill that post.

We pray your Highness to grant these requests to your humble subjects.

November 24
December 6, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 232.

Note sent with Second Petition to Prince Alexander.

(Translation.)

WE received your Highness' answer to our former petition, and we would wish to convey to your Highness the thanks and gratification of the entire Mussulman population upon learning that their down-trodden rights will for the future be protected, and that their religious principles will be further guaranteed when soldiers are given as desired; but as your Highness is aware, the subject matter of the former petition and of the present one, is to the effect that the Mussulman population are up to the present time suffering from tyranny and oppression, but that if release from that is guaranteed, and they are enabled to acquire wealth and prosperity, they are quite ready to give soldiers. We now beg to reiterate that as long as equality is not granted, and as long as they do not see and clearly understand that security will be granted for life and property, and as long as they are unable to acquire any kind of property, they are determined to emigrate rather than give soldiers. The fact of their giving soldiers is no pledge for the maintenance of equality. Moreover, under the Austrian soldiery and in Roumania, when the Mussulman population was exensed service, immediately their liberties were confirmed. Thus to liberate and raise up a fallen people would be a great sign of the justice of a Monarch, and we pray your Highness to forward all means for procuring justice and equality, and if this military service cannot be altogether excused, that, at any rate, eight or ten years respite may be granted to us.

November 26
December 8, 1879.

Inclosure 5 in No. 232.

Turkish rendering of Prince Alexander's Answer.

(Translation.)

Gentlemen,

November 25
December 7, 1879.

HIS Highness has taken your petition into consideration. He thanks you for your faithfulness and loyalty therein expressed. He wishes to reiterate his feelings of affection towards you. Desiring as he does to assist all his subjects, he has examined your desires. He has given permission that 2,000 soldiers should be taken from the Mussulmans; and he adheres to his decision. The good intentions evinced by the Mussulman population will give His Highness strength to carry out what he should think fit.

Yet I am to inform you that every facility and help will be given to Mussulmans who are to serve. In the first place, the number required is only one-third of what is lawful. Another thing is, that all consideration will be paid to their religious principles, and every facility given them during their term of service to observe their religion. Your

other requests have been considered, and I am to tell you that every care will be taken to observe the laws.

(Signed) ISTORELOFF,
1st Secretary to Prince Alexander.

No. 233.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 59.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa.

I would venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the action of the Christians of Janina on the receipt of the draft Organic Law for the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Prevesa, January 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that M. Kypriotis writes confidentially on the 29th ultimo, that the draft of an Organic Law having been received at Janina, the Vali has instituted a Commission composed of about twenty Turks and Christians, and that the Christians of Janina have in consequence dispatched a protest against this measure to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 234.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 60.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1073 of the 6th ultimo, reporting the arrangements that had been come to between myself and certain Representatives of Foreign Powers for the settlement of outstanding debts in Crete, I have the honour to transmit herewith, to your Lord-hip, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul in Crete on that subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 234.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Canea, Crete, December 26, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 11, of the 5th instant, explaining the action taken by the Chiefs of Missions at Constantinople with regard to the pecuniary claims of foreign subjects established in Crete contracted anterior to the year 1866. You there inform me that you have decided to protest to the Porte against the pretensions of the Cretan Assembly to interfere with the rights secured to foreigners by Treaties or International Law; but in order to facilitate a settlement, you authorize me to propose for the acceptance of British subjects who have claims against Cretans a scheme suggested by my French colleague and explained at length in your Excellency's despatch. You further authorize me to communicate with my colleagues of France, Austria, and Italy (who would receive the same instructions as myself), with a view to obtaining the consent of their respective subjects to the arrange-

ment referred to, which should subsequently be submitted to the Cretan authorities for their acceptance: but in case they refuse to accept it, I am to give them clearly to understand that no Decree or Règlement passed by the Cretan Assembly can in any way affect the interests of British subjects which can be inforced according to Treaties and to the law.

The day following the receipt of this despatch, I invited my colleagues of France, Italy, and Austria, to meet me at my house for the purpose of comparing views as to the concerted action to be taken in this matter. I previously had an informal interview with the Austrian Consul who gave me to understand that his instructions differed from mine, inasmuch as his Ambassador (or his, the Consul's, recommendation) would consent to no scheme of liquidation which involved a reduction of the claims of Austrian subjects. I suggested, nevertheless, that he should be present at our meeting, and I left him uncertain as to whether he would attend it or not.

At the meeting which took place, at which my Austrian colleague did not appear, the Italian and French Consuls whose instructions were substantially the same as mine, agreed that we should follow a similar line of action, but as they expressed a wish to see in writing the precise instructions received by our Austrian colleague (whose co-operation would greatly strengthen our hands), I addressed him a letter, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, and from which your Excellency will see how we proposed to carry out our respective instructions. The concession therein referred to is that proposed by my French colleague and approved by your Excellency. To this letter, sent a week ago, the Austrian Consul has returned no answer, but it is quite certain from what the Consul told me verbally that his Ambassador rejects any proposal leading to reduce the claims of Austrian subjects.

A day or two after our meeting I communicated verbally to Photaides Pasha the substance of your Excellency's despatch, who replied that the claims of foreign creditors must remain in abeyance until a modification of the Règlement be made in their favour by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 234.

Consul Sandwith to M. Mick-schi.

Mon cher Collègue, *Chalipa, Crete, le 18 Décembre*, 1879.

VOTRE absence à notre réunion d'aujourd'hui m'engage à vous communiquer le résultat, et à vous demander si vous entrez dans les vues auxquelles nous avons cru devoir nous rallier.

Nous avons pensé qu'en l'état de l'affaire la marche à suivre pourrait être celle-ci:—

Communiquer verbalement au Gouverneur-Général le sens des instructions que nous avons reçues.

Conseiller avec instance à nos nationaux respectifs des arrangements de conciliation, tout en leur laissant la faculté de réserver leurs droits *in integrum*.

Après les démarches faites auprès des débiteurs par les créanciers, et si ces démarches n'aboutissaient pas, nous aurions à engager nos compatriotes à s'adresser aux Tribunaux ordinaires, en indiquant toutefois dans leur requête qu'ils sont disposés à faire telle concession.

S'il y avait refus d'acceptation de la requête par les autorités locales ou déni de justice quelconque, recours par nous à nos Ambassades.

Telle est, cher collègue, la marche que nous avons adoptée et à laquelle vous jugerez, nous espérons, peut-être pouvoir vous associer.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) T. B. SANDWITH.

No. 235.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 61.)
Constantinople, January 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Porte has named Nihat Pasha (a Polish officer of the name of Belinski) its Commissioner to proceed to Sophia to settle with the Bulgarian Government questions

relating to the lands and property of Mussulmans, as well as those belonging to the State and Vakoufs, under the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I believe the appointment to be a good one, as Nihat Pasha is a Christian, and has already been employed on several important missions, in which he has rendered loyal service to the Porte. He was one of the two Commissioners sent to Batoum to reconcile the native populations to the surrender of that place to Russia.

I shall give him a letter of recommendation to Mr. Ashburnham, who, however, is already personally acquainted with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 236.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 12, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 748 of the 21st August last, I reported to your Lordship that a murder had been committed upon a gardener in the employment of some English residents in the suburb of Kadi-keui, and upon his wife and two children, and I informed your Lordship of the steps I had thought it necessary to take at the Porte in consequence.

Shortly afterwards a Report on the subject from the Ministry of Police was communicated to me by the Porte, in which complaints were made of the attitude of the foreign residents at Kadi-keui towards the military and police who had been sent there to investigate the matter and for the protection of the inhabitants, and it was implied that so far from assisting the authorities in their inquiries every difficulty was thrown in their way. This insinuation was indignantly denied by the English residents, who asserted that every possible assistance had been given to them by the police, and that they had spared neither time, trouble, nor money with the view of discovering the murderers. They also demanded that an apology should be obtained from the Minister of Police for the unfounded charges made against them.

I made repeated representations to the Porte on the subject, and at last, on the 18th December last, I received a communication from it, stating that the Minister of Police, in his Report of August last, had no intention of preferring any complaint against the English residents of Kadi-keui, and expressing regret that such a construction had been put upon it.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have now received from Mr. Whittall on behalf of the British residents, from which it would appear that they are satisfied with the explanation, and that the matter may therefore be considered at an end.

It seems that the Report in question was a confidential one from the Minister of Police to the Porte, and was only communicated to me "à titre officieux."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Mr. Whittall to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, January 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 19th ultimo, which I have since shown to most of the British residents of Moda.

Although the statements of the Sublime Porte are not quite in accordance with the facts, inasmuch as, the complaint having been addressed to your Excellency only, it was a reasonable inference that only the English residents were referred to (and indeed the words "English families" were used in the Report of the Minister of Police), yet, feeling that we have already trespassed too much upon your Excellency's valuable time, and in view of the regret which the Sublime Porte gives utterance to, we are willing, if your Excellency deem it right, to accept the communication in question as a satisfaction of our

demands for an apology, even although it conveys no actual retractation of the charges brought against us.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. W. WHITTALL.

No. 237.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum relating to the detention of the luggage of an English traveller at the Constantinople Custom-house, for including a "Murray's Handbook" and a book of travels in the East, which the authorities endeavoured to confiscate for containing passages prejudicial to Turkey. I shall take an early opportunity of making representations to the Porte on a proceeding which is another symptom, amongst the many I have had of late to call your Lordship's attention, of the revival of a reactionary spirit in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 237.

Report respecting the Seizure of Mr. Latham's Books.

MR. LATHAM arrived at Constantinople by the French steamer from Marseilles on the 26th December last, and accompanied his luggage to the custom-house at Galata, where every article contained in his two trunks was carefully searched and examined. Among their contents were found about half-a-dozen books, two of which were Murray's last edition of "Turkey and Constantinople" and a French novel, published some thirty or forty years ago, by M. Gerard de Nerval, and entitled "Voyage en Orient." On discovering these books the custom-house officials informed Mr. Latham that his luggage must be detained till the following day, and he with difficulty obtained leave to take away with him to the hotel a few necessary articles of apparel.

On the following day Mr. Latham sent the dragoman of the hotel for his property, and recovered it all but the books, which the dragoman was informed had been seized on account of the offensive allusions to Turkey which they contained, and that they were to be sent to the central custom-house at Stamboul. On the following Monday Mr. Latham proceeded in person to the Stamboul custom-house, where he found several officials engaged in perusing his books. On informing them who he was, they pointed out two passages in "Murray," at pp. 25 and 26, and one in M. Nerval's novel, in which the Sultan is made to apply an opprobious epithet in regard to the French Ambassador.

Mr. Latham was then told that these books, being calculated to injure Turkey before the world and to mislead the public, would be confiscated; and it was only after considerable wrangling on the subject, and a threat on the part of Mr. Latham to appeal to Her Majesty's Ambassador, that he obtained, on the following day, restitution of his books.

(Signed) F. R. ST. JOHN.

January 6, 1880.

No. 238.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 906 of the 16th November last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Colonel Miles respecting the plunder of a British vessel near Busreh by pirates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Colonel Miles to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bagdad, December 9, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 1st instant I had the honour to despatch to your Excellency the telegram, of which post copy is attached, and I now beg to submit, in continuation of my despatch dated the 25th ultimo, copy of letters dated the 19th ultimo and the 27th ultimo, received from Mr. Consul Robertson, reporting the proceedings of the Turkish authorities in the case of the British Bagla "Gunneshpersad."

Besides the man Ali-el-Irakey, another prisoner named Mohammed, one of the two accused whose extradition was obtained by Mr. Robertson from the Ikykh of Mohammed, has also managed to escape. These two latter prisoners were confined in the house of the Persian Consul where they were probably insecurely guarded, and hence the man Mahommed was enabled to get free. The other accused, named Kinian, has since I hear been handed over to the Turkish authorities. To-day information has been received that Ali-el-Iraky has been recaptured near Beni Saad on the Euphrates by Nasib Sawaked, and I trust soon to be able to report to your Excellency that the rest of the pirates implicated by Ali-el-Iraky are in safe custody. I beg to annex, for your Excellency's information, copy of telegraphic communication that has passed between Zabet Pasha and myself on the subject.

That the pirates are still near the spot and unintimidated by the police is shown by the fact that on the night of the 1st instant a boat was plundered of 4,000 rupees not far from Busreh.

The particulars of this case have not been received, but it is said that the brother of the man Mohammed who escaped from the Persian Consulate was engaged in the affair.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. MILES.

No. 239.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 73.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 14, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 1023 and 1094, of the 23rd November and 11th December last, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a Report from the Governor-General of Salonica, which has been communicated to me by the Porte, stating that the Bulgarian prisoners from the village of Eleshintza are to be tried by Court-Martial at Salonica as brigands and receivers of stolen goods. I have forwarded the Report to Mr. Consul-General Michell for his observations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 239.

Extract from a Report from the Governor-General of Salonica, dated December 1 (o.s.), 1879.

LES prisonniers Bulgares du village Elechnitza (Nevrekop) sont coupables de banditisme et de récel. Ils ont été, après les premiers interrogatoires, transférés à Salonique; où ils vont comparaître par devant la Cour Martiale.

No. 240.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Philippopoli, January 7, 1880.

THE inclosed translation of a petition addressed to the Governor-General represents that a body of armed Bulgarians attacked on the 30th ultimo the Mussulmans who are

encamped in huts at Hissar, near Carlovo, killing one man, wounding a woman with small shot, and breaking the leg of a Mouhtar with a rifle bullet.

A deputation from Hissar, having requested my advice and assistance, I recommended them to address a petition at once to the Governor-General.

The deputation returned very shortly after and stated that two of their fellow-villagers had been arrested in the streets at the instigation of a Bulgarian, for reasons of which they were unaware, and that consequently they were afraid to present their petition, which they had left unfinished.

I told them that if their story was untrue, they would certainly be arrested and punished, but that if they were telling the truth, they had nothing to fear, as I would cause them to be accompanied to the konak by a cavass.

On receiving this assurance they returned to the writer whose services they had engaged, and in a couple of hours brought me the petition and the copy from which the inclosed translation has been made.

By this time the public offices had been closed, and it became all the more necessary to cause the petitioners to be accompanied by a cavass, since after dark no Mussulman can venture out into the street without being molested or arrested, particularly if he is not provided with a lantern, for the carrying of which, at the same time, no official regulation exists.

On reaching the konak with the petitioners my cavass was informed, after some delay, that as it was already 7 P.M., the Governor-General could not receive the petition, and that the supplicants must return on Monday morning, the day following being Sunday.

As the case was one of brigandage and murder, I considered it my duty to state to the Governor-General, in the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, the object of the petition which had been thus rejected; and next day Aleko Pasha sent one of his Secretaries to explain to me that he had personally refused to receive the petition, owing to the lateness of the hour, but that on the receipt of my letter, he had ordered the Prefect of Philippopoli to repair at once to Hissar in order to investigate the circumstances which I had brought to his knowledge.

The wounded man and woman have since been brought to Philippopoli and placed in hospital through the instrumentality of the Central Refugee Relief Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 240.

Petition from Mussulmans of Hissar.

(Traduction.)

Le 22 *Décembre* (v.s.), 1879.

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Hissar, dans le district de Gueubsu, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Il y a dix jours, pendant que nous restions au café, un nombre de Bulgares du village de Zindijirli entrèrent dans le café, et, sans le moindre motif, se mirent à nous insulter. En ce moment arriva le nommé Vulko, Tchorbadji Bulgare du village de Keusséler, qui mit fin à leurs procédés.

Nous nous plaignâmes à l'autorité locale des dits Bulgares, qui, non contents des insultes qu'ils nous avaient adressées, retournèrent à la date de Jeudi, 18 Décembre (v.s.), à notre village, et enlevèrent quelques villageois Musulmans, et les jetèrent tout habillés dans un bassin. Sans le moindre motif ces personnes furent aussi battues par les dits villageois Bulgares.

Le même soir, à 6 heures à la Turque (11 heures du soir), des Bulgares armés jusqu'aux dents, au nombre de quarante à cinquante, mais dont nous ignorons les noms, entourèrent les coulibés (huttes) habitées par les Musulmans, et tirant plusieurs coups de feu dans les cabanes, tuèrent le nommé Ahmed Oglou Ali, du village de Kobridjak, qui se trouvait là ce soir, et blessèrent le nommé Achek Emier Oglou, Mouhtar Hussein Oglou, à part la fille du nommé Moustapha Agha, laquelle reçut six blessures de plomb de chasse.

A nos cris ces infâmes se dispersèrent. Nous ne doutons pas que votre Excellence

puisse approuver l'acte de sauvagerie dont nous venons d'être les victimes, et nous la prions de vouloir bien prendre des mesures immédiates pour punir les coupables.

Veuillez, &c.

(Suivent 15 cachets des Notables.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 240.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 3 Janvier, 1880.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

DEUX Musulmans, porteurs d'une supplique à l'adresse de votre Excellence, m'ont représenté que deux de leurs villageois avaient été mis en prison pendant la journée d'aujourd'hui, et qu'ils avaient par conséquent peur de se rendre au konak avec la pétition qu'ils avaient préparée, et qui était d'une grande urgence.

En conséquence je les ai fait accompagner par mon cavass jusqu'à la porte de votre Excellence.

Le cavass vient de me rapporter que, comme il se faisait tard, l'Aide-de-camp de service avait décliné la réception de la supplique, et renvoya les pétitionnaires à Lundi.

Je considère donc de mon devoir de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le but de la supplique en question était de représenter à votre Excellence que, Jeudi dernier, quarante à cinquante Bulgares armés avaient attaqué à Hissar les coulibés dans lesquels des Musulmans sont campés, tuant un homme, blessant une femme, et cassant la jambe au Mouhtar Turc.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) T. MICHELL.

No. 241.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 13.) *Philippopoli, January 7*, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 405 and 421 of the 13th and 28th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a letter which I received from the Governor-General on the 1st instant, inclosing copy of a Report from the Acting Prefect of Bourgas, and the copy of a confidential letter addressed to his Excellency by the Prefect of Eski-Zaghra on the subject of the distress of the Mussulman refugees respectively at Bourgas and Tchirpan.

The Acting Prefect of Bourgas states that although the refugees in that town are not in an enviable condition, yet that the latter is not so miserable as I had represented it to be.

He also represents to the Governor-General that the strenuous efforts of the Local Government in the direction of sending the refugees to their villages, are impeded by the "unseasonable" complaints which the refugees always make through the instrumentality of Her Majesty's Consul, at whose door they are stated to "knock without interruption," because "they cannot as yet accommodate themselves to the new order of things."

Before replying to the Governor-General's communication, I have sent a copy of the Acting Prefect's Report to Mr. Consul Brophy, in order to obtain his observations thereon.

It appears to me all the more necessary to reply to his Excellency since he has been assured by the Prefect of Tchirpan that the appeal which had been made to the Consuls at Philippopoli was the result of an intrigue and of an agitation amongst some of the Turkish Notables of Tchirpan, who raise absurd and idle questions "notwithstanding all the efforts of the local authorities to restrain them."

Your Lordship will recollect that the question which the Turks of Tchirpan in reality raised, when they addressed the several Consuls by telegraph, was that of their inability to resist death by cold and famine unless immediately relieved. The Prefect is therefore incorrect in stating that they had reported cases of actual death from cold and hunger "for the express purpose of compromising the authorities."

On the strength of his refutation of circumstances, which had never been stated to the Governor-General, the Prefect takes the liberty of advising his Excellency "not to

listen to similar complaints addressed either directly or through the intervention of the Consuls, before obtaining information from the competent authorities."

At the same time it appears from the Report of this Prefect that the destitution of the Mussulmans at Tchirpan, who had telegraphed that they were dying of cold and hunger, is not so great as that which prevails in other towns of his department.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 241.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{30 \text{ Décembre, 1879.}}{1 \text{ Janvier, 1880.}}$

M. le Consul-Général,

EN complément de ma lettre du $\frac{11}{23}$ Décembre courant, relative aux réfugiés de Bourgas, je crois devoir vous adresser ci-joint copie du Rapport que M. le *locum tenens* du Préfet dans la dite ville m'adresse en date du $\frac{12}{24}$ Décembre courant.

Je saisis cette occasion pour vous envoyer également ci-inclus copie d'une lettre confidentielle que M. le Préfet d'Eski-Zagra m'a adressée en date du $\frac{16}{28}$ Décembre courant, sur la situation des réfugiés à Tchirpan.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 241.

M. Dagoroff to Aleko Pasha.

Rapport.

Bourgas, le 13 Décembre, 1879.

EN complément de ma dépêche du 10 Décembre courant, j'ai l'honneur de vous rapporter qu'il y a en effet à Bourgas des réfugiés dans une situation peu enviable, mais non pas aussi misérable que M. le Consul-Général d'Angleterre à Plovdiv le dit.

Les Musulmans dont il est question appartiennent à cette catégorie de réfugiés qui, conformément à la dépêche de M. le Secrétaire-Général en date du 8 Novembre, n'ont été reçus qu'à la condition d'avoir des vivres au moins pour deux mois.

De peur qu'on ne les renvoyât, paraît-il, ces Muhadjirs avaient déclaré, lors de leur arrivée, qu'ils étaient pourvus de moyens de subsistance et qu'ils n'avaient pas besoin d'être secourus par le Gouvernement, car sous peu ils se mettraient en route pour leurs foyers à leurs propres frais. C'est ce qu'ils disaient à bord du bateau; mais aussitôt débarqués à Bourgas ils ont déclaré—poussés par des gens malveillants—qu'on leur avait dit à Constantinople que, d'après un ordre formel des Sept Souverains de l'Europe, la Roumélie Orientale était obligée de les nourrir, de leur construire des maisons, et autres semblables extravagances.

Quoique je ne fusse pas tenu de le faire, je leur ai pourtant fourni des chariots pour le trajet jusqu'à leurs villages; mais ils ont refusé de s'y rendre sous prétexte qu'on ne leur donnerait pas chez eux le biscuit qu'ils reçoivent à Bourgas.

C'est par suite de ce refus que les réfugiés sont restés jusqu'aujourd'hui à Bourgas.

Plusieurs d'entre eux ont néanmoins reçu immédiatement les revenus de leurs immeubles, et j'ai réussi à persuader d'autres à se rendre dans leurs villages. A ceux qui restent on donne tous les jours du biscuit ou du pain en quantité suffisante.

Ces derniers sont actuellement installés dans des maisons et des greniers, où bien qu'ils n'aient pas tout le confortable ils ne sont pas non plus trop mal logés. D'autre part, je m'efforce journellement de leur trouver des moyens de se rendre dans leurs foyers, et malgré tout cela ils ne cessent de nous créer des embarras et des obstacles par leur incessantes réclamations, intempestives, qui se produisent toujours par l'entremise de M. le Consul Britannique en cette localité.

J'ose assurer votre Altesse que les autorités locales et la Commission des Réfugiés s'occupent incessamment de ces Turcs; mais il est difficile de les contenter, car ils ne peuvent pas encore se faire au nouvel état des choses et frappent conséquemment sans interruption à la porte du susdit Consul.

Veuillez, &c.

Pour le Préfet,

(Signé) DAGOROFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 241.

M. Marcoff to Aleko Pasha.

Tchirpan, le $\frac{6}{18}$ Décembre, 1879.

(Confidentielle.)

L'ORAGE qui a eu lieu le 29 Novembre a donné de sérieuses appréhensions aux pauvres de Stara-Zagora aussi bien qu'à ceux de Tchirpan, de Kazanlik et de Nova-Zagora, principalement sur la question du chauffage. De ma part, j'ai donné l'ordre aux Baillis de s'occuper de cette question et de prendre soin que les Mouhadjirs, qui, jusqu'à ce jour-là continuaient à descendre dans les stations du chemin de fer et rentraient dans leurs foyers, ne souffrent pas du froid.

Cependant, le 30 Novembre j'ai reçu un télégramme des Musulmans de Tchirpan m'informant que la population souffre grandement du froid; aussitôt, j'ai télégraphié au Baillis d'emprunter, pour mon compte, à la Municipalité, 600 piastres, pour acheter du bois ou du pain pour les pauvres. En même temps les Bulgares ont constitué une Commission Provisoire et ont souscrit une somme s'élevant de 2,000 à 3,000 piastres en faveur des pauvres.

Mais avant que ces secours fussent arrivés à destination, les Turcs télégraphièrent aux Consuls des Puissances Européennes qu'il y avait eu des gens morts de froid et de faim.

En réalité ce mensonge a été, à mon avis, dit expressément pour compromettre les autorités. Non-seulement dans le département de Stara-Zagora, mais peut-être dans toute la province même, les Musulmans ne sont pas dans un meilleur état que ceux de Tchirpan. Un petit secours aurait suffi pour soulager les pauvres Musulmans pendant l'hiver, et cela beaucoup plus au point de vue du chauffage que de la nourriture.

J'ai demandé moi-même aux Turcs de me dire s'il y avait eu ou non des gens morts de froid ou de faim; ils me répondirent que non; mais qu'ils avaient télégraphié dans ce sens expressément dans le but de produire de l'effet sur l'Europe, qui ne tarderait pas ainsi à leur envoyer des secours.

A Tchirpan, tous les Musulmans sont très-bien casés; il n'y a eu jusqu'à présent aucune mort provenant de froid ou de faim. Il n'y a même pas une misère aussi grande à celle qui règne dans les autres villes de mon département.

Depuis une certaine époque j'ai remarqué une agitation parmi quelques Notables Turcs à Tchirpan et à Stara-Zagora, et si je pouvais avoir l'honneur d'être reçu en audience par votre Altesse, je lui donnerais des renseignements à ce sujet. Toutes les intrigues sont exercées avec une arrière-pensée, et quoique les autorités locales fassent tous leurs efforts pour contenir les Turcs, ceux-ci ne manquent pas de soulever des questions Turques absurdes et oiseuses.

Votre Altesse en sera persuadée par M. Othanasaki Malicff, nouvellement nommé Commissaire, qui lui dira, je ne doute pas, la vérité relativement aux Musulmans de Tchirpan.

Cette conduite des Musulmans de Tchirpan servira, je crois, d'exemple aux Turcs des autres départements, qui s'adresseront aussi télégraphiquement aux Consuls du secours, ou Dieu sait quelle autre chose encore.

J'ose penser que votre Altesse fera bien de ne pas prêter l'oreille à de pareilles plaintes adressées soit directement soit par l'intermédiaire des Consuls avant d'avoir obtenu des renseignements des autorités compétentes.

Je vous prie, &c.
(Signé) MARCOFF.

No. 242.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 14.)

Philippopoli, January 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith translations of three petitions that have recently been addressed to me by Mussulman refugees on the subject of their treatment and sufferings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 242.

Petition from Mussulmans at Tatar-Bazardjik.

(Traduction.)

Le 28 Novembre (v.s.), 1879.

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans de Tatar-Bazardjik et des villages environnants, avons l'honneur de vous exposer ce qui suit:

Bien que nous ayons demeuré jusqu'ici dans nos foyers, nous avons dû supporter les souffrances que les Bulgares nous ont fait subir.

A notre grand regret le 26 Novembre (v.s.), à 12 heures du matin à la Turque, la mosquée d'Ayas Bey qui avait été détruite peu avant et dont le faite était seul intact, a été brûlée.

Un Bulgare que nous connaissons, mais dont nous craignons de mentionner ici le nom, s'est permis d'y mettre le feu, après avoir ramassé les plaques en fer blanc et cuivre qui s'y trouvaient, après quoi il est parti. Les Bulgares travaillent activement à la destruction de toutes nos mosquées.

De vingt-deux mosquées que nous possédions il ne nous reste plus que cinq, et ces cinq mosquées qui nous restent, nous sommes pas maîtres de les conserver, vu la conduite des Bulgares, qui est déjà connu dans toute l'Europe.

Nous vous prions instamment de publier de nouveau cette infâme conduite a toute l'Europe et cela par l'entremise des journaux.

Suivent les cachets de (Mouhtar Evel),
ABDUL KADIM.
„ „ de (Mouhtar Sani),
MEHMED.

Inclosure 2 in No. 242.

Petition from Mussulmans of Sate Oglou.

(Traduction.)

Le 12 Décembre (v.s.), 1879.

JE Soussigné, habitant Musulman de Sate Oglou, relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

L'année passée, accompagné de mon frère, nous avons émigrés à Andrinople. A peine l'armée Russe est-elle entrée à Philippopoli qu'on nous a fait retourner à notre village, où nous avons demeuré très-tranquillement dans notre maison. Après dix-huit mois de tranquillité les villageois Bulgares de Tchakerdje sont venus à notre village avec leurs chariots, et par force ils ont démoli ma maison et transportés les planches dans leur village pour construire une école. Après quelques jours le nommé Kolli Oglou Stavri, du même village, arrive chez-moi, et après avoir démoli la seule chambre qui me restait (une écurie, un grenier), il enleva les pierres que j'avais dans mon jardin, et il est parti. Je lui ai demandé le motif de sa conduite. Il m'a répondu qu'aussitôt que le propriétaire de la maison détruite arrivait il ferait reconstruire.

Il est à regretter qu'après la guerre on puisse se comporter d'une telle façon et détruire ma maison. Je vous prie, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez à propos, et me faire rendre ma maison.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) OSMAN OGLOU,
ABDUL AZIZ,
Du Village Sate Oglou.

Inclosure 3 in No. 242.

Petition from Mussulmans of Yahyalar.

(Traduction.)

Le 17 Décembre (v.s.), 1879.

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Yahyalar, district de Koyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 70 familles, composées de 95 personnes, demeurant dans notre village, sans récoltes pour notre nourriture.

L'année passée, pendant que les Russes étaient ici, nos villageois reçurent une

partie des récoltes, et jusqu'à ce moment ils ont pu vivre; mais maintenant ils sont au désespoir, leurs récoltes étant épuisées.

Nous avons même vendus nos champs pour pouvoir vivre; nous n'avons plus rien à vendre pour nous procurer de la nourriture.

Il est donc clair que nous mourrons tous de faim. Quoique nous ayons porté à la connaissance des autorités de Bazardjik, et du village de Otlouk, notre triste situation, aucune suite n'a été donnée à nos représentations.

Nous sommes venus à l'autorité d'ici pour lui exposer notre état; elle nous a répondu que nous devons nous adresser à l'autorité de Bazardjik pour obtenir un résultat à notre affaire, et nous a conseillé de nous adresser aussi à la Direction des Finances. Toutefois nous n'avons pas la force de courir d'un côté et de l'autre, vu que nous sommes complétement dépourvus de moyens de subsistance. Si cela continue ainsi nous mourrons tous.

Nous venons respectueusement implorer votre aide dans la critique circonstance où nous nous trouvons.

Votre charité nous est connue depuis bien longtemps. Pour ne pas nous permettre de mourir de faim, nous vous supplions de vouloir bien prendre les mesures que vous jugerez nécessaires afin de nous procurer les récoltes qui nous sont dues, et des rations.

En attendant la décision que vous croirez devoir prendre à l'égard de notre triste sort, nous vous prions de nous croire toujours, &c.

Le Représentant des Villageois de Yahyalar,
(Signé) IBRAHIM.

No. 243.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 3. Political.)

Beyrout, January 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 11 of the 23rd ultimo, instructing me to furnish you with a copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Jago's despatch No. 12 of the 11th May, 1878, relative to the bonds on the local Treasury at Damascus, held by British subjects.

In conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the above-mentioned despatch, and its inclosure, which would have been forwarded in my despatch No. 59 of the 21st November, had I not been under the impression that Mr. Jago had already sent a copy to the Foreign Office, at the time he addressed the despatch to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 243.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, May 11, 1878.

Sir,

DURING the past eighteen months I have been frequently importuned by British subjects here, to bring to your Excellency's favourable notice their claims upon the local Treasury of Damascus for moneys lent by them to it at various epochs, dating from several years back, and now amounting in the aggregate to about 170,000*l.*

In view of the impecuniosity of the Imperial Exchequer, consequent upon political events, I have declined so far troubling your Excellency on the subject.

Recent events have, however, in their opinion, justified the claimants in pressing me again in the matter; an opinion, I must add, based more upon the great distress existing among them, than from any power of guessing the present situation.

Under these circumstances, and at the risk of appearing to invoke your Excellency's kind assistance at what may seem to be an unfitting moment, I venture to place them before your Excellency for such favourable consideration as you may think fit to bestow when you deem that the proper time has arrived.

These claims proceed from moneys advanced to the local authorities of Damascus to enable them to meet the expenses of the Haj or pilgrimage to Mecca at times (and

they were many) when the pecuniary requisitions of Constantinople caused the surplus of the revenues of the vilayet of Syria to be turned into a deficit.

Bonds bearing an interest of 18 per cent. per annum, and signed by the Governor-General, the Defterdar Effendi, and the whole of the members of the Grand Council of Damascus, were given to the lenders for the exact sum borrowed. These bonds, if not paid, were renewed yearly; the old bonds delivered up, and new ones, with the accruing interest capitalized, reissued for the whole. Owing to the orders from the Porte no renewal has taken place for two years.

This local debt of Damascus amounts in the aggregate to about 700,000*l.*, of which about 170,000*l.* is owing to British subjects, and forms almost if not all the entire fortunes of the formerly wealthy Christian and Jewish families of Damascus.

Although perhaps at first sight these claims may be considered to rank against the general assets of the Empire, I take the liberty to mention the arguments advanced by the claimants in support of their view that they should be considered entitled to a lien upon the province and its revenues.

1. That the money was borrowed by the authorities, and was lent by the lenders, for the express purpose of allowing the Haj to be performed; and that therefore such debt being for a holy purpose, must be regarded by the Sublime Porte as sacred and privileged.

2. That such of these bonds as have been paid from time to time in the past have always been paid out of the Treasury of the vilayet.

3. That their pretention to rank them as a privileged claim is borne out by the fact that the debt was never included in any Imperial Budget.

4. That the money was advanced without any discount, and that therefore the debt cannot be held to rank with the general debt of the Empire or other State obligations, the values of which fluctuated with every change of Governmental credit.

The claimants are unaware, of course, whether any attempt is likely to be made to consider such provincial debt as subjected to amalgamation with the general debt of the Empire.

Such are the leading features of these claims. I may add, however, that Mr. Von Haas, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, possesses a personal and intimate knowledge of every circumstance connected with this debt, generally known in Syria by the name of "Damascus Serghis."

I beg to enclose a copy and translation of one of these bonds, which differ only in that the value of some of them is expressed in piastres, while in others the value is expressed in specific coins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 243.

Specimen of Damascus Bond or "Serghi."

(Traduction.)

Avoir M.

	£
Créance principale	11,327 13/20
Intérêt à raison de 1½ pour cent par mois à partir d'Octobre 1291, jusque Octobre 1292	2,038 7/20
	13,366

Vu la nécessité, la Caisse Civile de la Finance de Damas se trouvait dernièrement contrainte de créer un emprunt spécial afin de faire face à des frais très-urgents.

Nous Soussignés, formant le Tribunal de l'Administration de cette dette, avons emprunté de plusieurs négociants, sous intérêts à raison de 1½ pour cent par mois:—

Au 21 Octobre, 1291, nous avons emprunté de M. la somme principale de 11,327 13/20*l.* à terme de douze mois; nous avons légalisé la dette le 3 Mars, 1291, en lui délivrant un bon spécial nommé "serghi," sous le No. 7.

Comme la susdite Caisse de Finance ne pourrait effectuer le paiement de ce bon à l'échéance, à cause du manque des fonds disponibles, qu'il soit fait en conformité à la réclamation du porteur, et selon la convention générale de renouveler le terme du bon ("serghi") susmentionné, en y ajoutant les intérêts à raison de 1½ pour cent par mois.

D'après le calcul ci-dessus dressé les intérêts montant à 2,038$\frac{70}{100}$*l.*, en les additionnant à la somme principale, font ensemble 13,366*l.*, selon notre mention une fois ce bon ("serghi") renouvelé, l'ancienne copie soit annulée.

Vu les conditions précédentes, à l'expiration du terme d'une année, c'est-à dire à la fin d'Octobre 1292, nous paierons à M. la somme précitée.

Vu la Convention inscrite sur le même bon, la Caisse Civile de la Finance de Damas a la faculté d'escompter le restant du terme à parcourir, et de payer au porteur durant l'intervalle de la période, avant l'échéance.

Le porteur de ce bon, M. est tenu aussi à encaisser lorsque la Caisse de Finance lui propose le paiement. En foi de quoi nous renouvelons ce "serghi."

Fait à Damas, le 2 Gemad Second 93, et 12 Juin, 1292.

Légalisation de l'Adjoint-Contrôleur et du Secrétaire-Général de la Syrie.

Secrétaire-General,
(Signé) SOLIMAN SODA.

Adjoint Contrôleur et Inspecteur,
(Signé) MUHAMED NOURI.

Le Gouverneur-Général de la Syrie,
(Signé) RACHID NACHID.

Le Lieutenant,
ALI REDA HAFEZ.

Le Secrétaire-Général,
SOLEIMAN SODA.

Le Contrôleur,
MOHAMMED HALI.

Le Juge,
MAHMOUD.

Membres du Tribunal—
MUHOMED ALI AZEM.
OSMAN MARDAN BEIK.
MUHAMED MOHASSEN.
GEBRAN ESPER.
SELIM BETTAR.
ADALLA AGOSTIN.

No. 244.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le* 22 *Janvier*, 1880.

CONFORMÉMENT aux instructions de mon Gouvernement, j'ai l'honneur de communiquer à votre Excellence la copie ci-jointe d'une dépêche télégraphique du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, relative à une loi spéciale que le Gouvernement Serbe prépare pour les propriétés des Musulmans situées dans la circonscription des territoires annexés à la Principauté de Servie.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 19 *Janvier*, 1880.

ON nous assure que le Gouvernement Serbe prépare une loi spéciale pour les propriétés des Musulmans situées dans la circonscription des territoires nouvellement annexés à la Principauté. Il y serait, entre autres, question de capitaliser la valeur de ces propriétés avec paiement annuel d'intérêt, et d'une certaine somme à titre d'amortissement à leurs propriétaires.

Quant aux propriétés appartenant aux fondations pieuses, elles ont été presque toutes démolies ou vendues. La plus riche mosquée de Nisch a été même rasée.

En présence d'un pareil état de choses qui constitue une violation flagrante de l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte croit devoir déclarer dès à présent que toute loi promulguée par le Gouvernement Serbe, ou toute autre mesure

prise par lui en violation des dispositions du dit Article, sera considérée par elle comme nulle et non avenue.

Je prie votre Excellence de laisser une copie de la présente dépêche à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 245.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 21, 1880, 6 P.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he is prepared to propose to Montenegro following arrangement:—

Part of Gussinjé inhabited by Mussulmans to remain to Turkey, and that inhabited by Christians to go to Montenegro, the River Lim to form boundary. Turkey to cede to Montenegro Kuchi Kraina to the River Zem, and following the mountain heights to Gulf of Kastrati in the Lake of Scutari.

His Excellency has made this proposal to Italian Minister, and has authorized him to communicate it to his Government.

Italian Minister's personal opinion is that the idea is well worthy of consideration. He considers that the exchange would be a fair one, and if accepted by Montenegro would prevent serious dangers that must arise if this question be left unsettled.

No. 246.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22, 2 P.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January* 22, 1880, 9·30 A.M.

I AM pressed by Kustendje Railway Company to settle their claims upon the Porte.

I have received no answer to my note of the 29th November, and there is little hope of Porte giving way to demands on paper. What do you wish me to do in the matter?

No. 247.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, January* 22, 1880.

MR. ABBOTT reports very great distress in district of Oroomiah, chiefly owing to action of Governor, who refuses to sell grain he has in store even at very high prices. I have spoken to Minister Foreign Affairs, who has telegraphed to Prince Governor of Azerbaijan to take measures to have these supplies sold at once.

No. 248.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 7. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, January* 22, 1880.

SOME of my colleagues think that Labanoff is working at the establishment of an understanding on Eastern affairs between Russia, Germany, and France, and that he has gone to Paris for that purpose.

He appears to have spoken here a good deal about the decline of English influence at Constantinople, and the Sultan's leanings towards Russia.

No. 249.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 41.) *Pera, January 22, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that the Sultan wishes to raise a new loan from the Galata bankers, upon customs which have been freed by recent arrangement with them, and that he is already in negotiation with some of them.

If this prove the case, should I renew protest I have already made, in pursuance of your instructions, against dealing with a security already pledged to foreign bondholders?

No. 250.

The Marquis of Salisbury to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 8.) *Foreign Office, January 23, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to my despatch to your predecessor No. 273 of the 12th April, 1878, and to his reply No. 412, endeavour to obtain documents alluded to as Inclosure 3 in Mr. Reade's despatch No. 19 of the 20th March of that year, which were probably communicated to the Russian Government in original.

No. 251.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 51.) *Paris, January 23, 1880.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 36 of the 17th instant, I have honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from Nicolaki Sartinski Effendi, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires here, on the subject of the French proposal respecting the Turco-Greek frontier.

When I wrote the despatch to which I have referred, I was at a loss to understand why Sawas had sent a message to me on that subject.

I have, however, since received from your Lordship a copy of Sir Henry Layard's telegram to your Lordship, No. 24 of the 7th instant, from which it appears that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had been informed that M. de Freycinet had said that he would take no decision in the matter until he had consulted me.

M. de Freycinet was probably misunderstood by the person who conveyed this information to Sawas Pasha. His Excellency could only have meant that he would wait until he had communicated with Her Majesty's Government. It was very unlikely that he should propose to ask my personal opinion on a proposal under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; and I may add, still more unlikely that I should express any such opinion.

At all events, it is certain that M. de Freycinet has not consulted me at all on the subject.

The first time he spoke to me about this matter he told me he adhered to M. Waddington's proposal, and he has several times expressed to me a desire to be made acquainted with the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of that proposal, but this is all that has passed between us.

I have not mentioned to him the communication made to me by Sartinski Effendi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 251.

Sartinski Effendi to Lord Lyons.

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Paris, le 21 Janvier, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI transmis télégraphiquement à mon Gouvernement la substance de la conversation que j'ai eu l'honneur d'avoir avant-hier avec votre Excellence au sujet de la proposition du Cabinet Français concernant la rectification des frontières Turco-Grecques.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha me charge de remercier vivement votre Excellence de ses bonnes dispositions pour tout ce qui intéresse le Gouvernement Impérial, et afin de servir de complément au Mémoire des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans que votre Excellence a bien voulu me promettre de lire et qui a été rédigé à une époque où la proposition de M. Waddington n'était pas prévue, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte m'invite à porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence "que la ligne indiquée par le Cabinet Français constitue une cruelle dérision pour ce qui concerne Janina, car il est matériellement impossible que cette ville puisse rester à la Turquie si on lui enlève, comme M. Waddington le fait par sa ligne, le Golfe de Preveza et la position stratégique de Metzovo, qui est la clef de Janina et du reste de l'Epire. Son Excellence Musurus Pacha a développé cette vérité à sa Seigneurie Lord Salisbury."

Je m'estime très-heureux, M. l'Ambassadeur, d'avoir l'occasion de faire cette communication à votre Excellence, et je me permets de lui réitérer la prière que je lui ai faite, l'autre jour, d'appuyer, auprès de son Gouvernement, de toute autorité de son jugement et de son grand sens politique, le Mémoire et les considérations mentionnés plus haut.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) N. SARTINSKI.

No. 252.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 24, 1880.*

REPLY to your No. 40.

I am in communication at the present time with the Chairman of the Kustendji Railway Company.

Instructions will be sent as soon as possible.

No. 253.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January 24, 1880, 5·20 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 41 of the 22nd instant.

You should protest as before.

No. 254.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 22nd instant, in which is inclosed a copy of a telegram received from your Government on the subject of a special law about to be promulgated by the Servian Government with reference to the property of the Mussulman inhabitants of the districts ceded to the Principality by the Porte under the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 255.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, January 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that his Royal Highness the Duke of Wurtemberg quitted Serajevo, on leave of absence, on the 3rd instant.

During his Royal Highness' absence, which will probably extend to two or three months, the supreme civil and military command in Bosnia and the Herzegovina is vested in Lieutenant-General Baron Dahlen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 256.

Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 2. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, January 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 37, Political, of the 3rd December, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a pamphlet on the agrarian question in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, written by Dr. Milutin Kukuljević, an employé in the Administrative Department of the Local Government.

Considering the short time Dr. Kukuljević has been in the country, and that he treats of a very complicated subject, to which he had probably never before given his attention, his pamphlet is of undeniable merit. I would only remark that he is in error in mixing up with the present agrarian question the institution of "Spahilik," which has no bearing whatever on the relations between landowner and peasant. The Spahis, as such, were never proprietors of the soil, but simply had the right to take the tithe of the produce; and even this right, as Dr. Kukuljević himself states, was taken from them by the Porte some thirty years ago, and in lieu thereof a fixed yearly sum allotted to them by the Treasury.

A Commission has lately been sitting at Serajevo to discuss, and seek a solution for, the agrarian difficulty. The members of this Commission consisted, I believe, of the Duke of Wurtemberg as President, General Dahlen, the Mutessarifs, or "Kreishauptleute," of the six different Sandjaks of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, M. Sax, the chief of the Administrative Department of the Local Government, Dr. Kukuljević, Baron Mollinary, and Major Cnobloch, the officer charged with the cadastral survey of the country.

The majority of these had, I fear, a very limited knowledge of the subject on which they met to deliberate, and no natives, whether landowner, peasant, or ex-Spahi, seem to have been called before the Commission, either to give information or to offer suggestions.

As far as I can learn, matters are to be left pretty nearly in *statu quo* for the present. When the cadastre of the whole province shall have been completed, which cannot be done in less than four years, a land tax will probably be substituted for the present tithe. As this tax will naturally fall entirely on the landowners, and they will have to pay whether their land be under cultivation or not, it is anticipated that they will be very glad to part with a portion of their land to the peasants at a moderate valuation. Arrangements will be made for the gradual payment by these latter by yearly instalments, and probably to some assistance will be given by the Government, while to others grants of Government land will be made. In the meantime I presume that the Regulation of the 14th Sefer, 1276, will continue in force, and as this Regulation errs, if anything, in favour of the peasants, they will have no just cause of complaint.

There are already, I am told, some sixty German families, chiefly Westphalians and Wurtembergers, settled in the north of Bosnia, near Banjaluka, on land they have bought from Mussulman proprietors. Many other families are said to be anxious to immigrate to this country, but for the present it is difficult to obtain land. There is no doubt a considerable quantity of land in the province available for colonization, but the Government can do nothing in the matter until the cadastre be completed, and it is a great risk to purchase from private persons until their titles to their possessions have been better established than at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 256.

"Grundbesitzverhältnisse in Bosnien und in der Hercegovina." Ein Beitrag zur Agrarfrage von Dr. Milutin Kukuljevic de Succi, Regierungs-Secretär: Serajevo, 1879.

No. 257.

Acting Vice-Consul Marengo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, January 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, according to orders from the Sublime Porte, the Turkish Boundary Commission left Batoum for the capital on the 6th instant.

In consequence of the bad weather, I have been unable to have an interview with Schehib Bey the Chief Commissioner, and to make inquiries about their work, which, according to rumours, seems to have been fruitless.

M. Emilianoff, the Russian Secretary, arrived here on the 7th instant, and intends to spend the winter at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. MARENGO.

No. 258.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 8, 1880.*

RELIABLE information has been received at Bucharest from Berlin which makes this Government believe that the turn taken by the Bill for purchasing the railway lines has given satisfaction to the bankers interested, and to the Imperial German Government; so that if the Chamber of Deputies follows in the same line after the holidays, this difficult question will have been solved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 259.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, January 17, 1880.*

EVERY kind of manœuvre is being resorted to by the Opposition to discredit, as far as possible, the Bill for purchasing the railway lines now before the Chamber; it is represented in the press as a job discreditable to the Government, and which will inevitably be followed by disastrous consequences; whilst privately it is more than hinted that the scheme is due to German influence at Court, and conclusions are drawn highly unfavourable to Prince Charles.

Among the adherents of the Government an active propaganda against this very measure is being carried on by some parties who appear to be worked upon by the agents here of a Berlin banker, M. Jacob Landau.

This gentleman had been formerly negotiating for a similar measure, but his proposed Convention has been superseded by the one concluded between the Minister of Finance and Messrs. Bleichröder, &c.; from that moment he has threatened legal proceedings, and has thrown obstacles in the way of that project by intimidation and otherwise.

In the course of another ten days the vote of the Chamber will probably seal the fate of the present Convention, but we have not heard the last yet of M. Landau or the other antagonists of this scheme at Berlin and at Bucharest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 260.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 5. Political.)

Canea, Crete, January 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a confidential despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard, contradicting the news conveyed in the inclosure of my last despatch about the appointment of Salih Pasha to the post of Commander-in-chief in Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Canea, Crete, January 12, 1880.

Sir,

IN my former despatch I stated, on the authority of Photiades Pasha, that Salih Pasha, Commander-in-chief at Salonica, had been appointed in the same capacity here. I considered this news sufficiently important to telegraph it to your Excellency, but I did not do so until I had it confirmed by Nedjib Pasha, whom I called on on purpose to be sure that there was no mistake on the matter. It was not until Nedjib Pasha's successor arrived here on the 6th instant that it was discovered that everybody was in error about his identity. The new Commander-in-chief is named Edhem Pasha. I immediately telegraphed to your Excellency to inform you of the mistake. As you are aware, Nedjib Pasha has had an important post assigned him at the capital, whither he starts by the mail steamer conveying this despatch. During his Excellency's three months' residence in Crete he has loyally seconded the Vali in his efforts to keep order in the island. He was popular with the Christians, but he somewhat shocked the prejudices of his co-religionists from his open disregard of their social and religious observances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 261.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 4.)

Nisch, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report the arrival here of Ali Bey, the newly-appointed Ottoman member of the Joint Commission which, in virtue of the prescriptions of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, is to settle "all matters relative to the manner of alienating, cultivating, and working, for the benefit of the Sublime Porte, the properties of the State and the religious establishments ("vakoufs") as well as questions relative to the interests of private parties connected with these."

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 262.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 5.)

Nisch, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 121 of the 12th ultimo, I have caused the photo-zincograph copies of the maps of the Servian Boundary Commission therewith transmitted to be handed over to the French Legation at Belgrade, and to Colonel Jovanovitch, through the Servian Foreign Office.

I also beg to transmit herewith to your Lordship, in original, the two receipts given for the above-mentioned maps by the French Representative and by the gentleman temporarily in charge of the Servian Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 263.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 17.)

Athens, January 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an Army Return for the year 1880, as proposed by the Government in the Budget now before the Chamber.

According to the Budget for 1879, the number voted was 19,089, and for the present year 15,097, a decrease of 3,092.

The Navy Estimates for the present year provide for the maintenance of 1,828 men for the navy, 416 less than last year.

The Government thus shows a laudable desire for economy, which is imperatively called for by the state of the public finances.

The decrease in the number of men in the army and navy, though small in numbers, is relatively considerable, and is an evidence of the pacific intentions of the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 263.

RETURN of the Army for the Year 1880, in accordance to the Budget laid before the Chamber by the Ministry.

Corps.	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers.	Musicians.	Soldiers.	Clerks.	2nd Class Clerks.	Copyists.	Professors.	Masters.	Students.	Total.
1. Ministry of War	31	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
2. Engineers	51	208	16	647	..	..	..	..	..	..	922
3. Artillery and Arsenal ..	96	330	13	955	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,403
4. Cavalry	36	158	12	435	..	..	..	..	..	..	641
5. Infantry and Sharpshooters ("Euzones")	584	1,613	441	6,760	..	..	..	..	..	..	9,351
6. Staff (Commandant de Place)	172	90	48	12	12	4	4	..	..	..	338
7. Military School	18	..	2	1	..	..	..	13	9	120	163
8. Gendarmerie	92	279	..	2,100	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,471
9. Supernumerary	..	336	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	336
10. On half-pay	29	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
11. Hospital Staff	3	49	2	187	..	..	..	..	..	..	241
	1,062	3,148	537	11,098	2	4	4	13	9	120	15,907

No. 264.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 26.)

Washington, January 12, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 222 of the 3rd of November last I had the honour to inform your Lordship of the letter which had been addressed to Mr. Evarts by the American Hebrew Congregations, asserting that Roumania had not complied with the conditions of her independence in granting civil and religious liberty to all its inhabitants, and urging that the United States should not recognize its independence whilst it evaded its obligations.

It is believed that this protest induced Mr. Evarts to modify the instructions which had been sent to Mr. Kasson, the United States Minister, and to direct him not to proceed to the recognition of the independence of Roumania until some understanding should have been arrived at with regard to the political status of the Jews in that country.

In the State Department correspondence which is now in the printer's hands there is a despatch from Mr. Kasson, reporting a conversation which he had held with M. Balatshano, the Roumanian Minister at Vienna, in which the latter expressed the desire of his Government to enter into diplomatic relations with the United States. In the course of the conversation Mr. Kasson alluded to the preliminary requirements of the Berlin Treaty with respect to the Jews. M. Balatshano replied that absolute equality with other races would be granted to them. He estimated the Jews in Roumania at 600,000, of whom less than one-tenth were native born; and he expressed the opinion that Roumania had a right to protect her own native race from being overwhelmed by a foreign invasion of that character; and he referred to the Bill which had then just been passed by one of the Houses of the United States' Congress, for the suppression of Chinese immigration to the United States.

It was after this, and the representation made by the United States Hebrew Congregations, that Mr. Evarts instructed Mr. Kasson not to enter into negotiations with Roumania unless the civil and religious liberty of the Jews should be fully recognized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 265.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 14, 1880.*

HAVING received your Lordship's telegram explaining the reasons which would prevent you from supporting the Austrian Government in calling upon the Porte to carry out the cession of Gusinjé and Plava without reference to the question of Kuči Kraina, I called yesterday at the Imperial Foreign Office, but did not find either Baron Haymerle or Baron Calice.

As I dined, however, afterwards at the Palace, I was able to have a few minutes' conversation with the Emperor, to whom I mentioned the substance of your Lordship's communication.

His Majesty said that he could not understand it, as it appeared at variance with a report just received from M. Kosjek, his Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, stating that he was receiving every support from Sir Henry Layard in the representations he was making to the Porte on this subject.

He expressed his satisfaction at the assurances given by the Prince of Montenegro, and asked me to inform your Lordship that a telegram had just been received from him declaring that he was quite prepared to act according to the provisions of the Treaty in respect to Kuči Kraina, and to abide by the decision that might be come to by the Powers in regard to that district.

I observed that there had appeared in some quarters a disposition to require that the Porte should not only formally renounce its sovereignty over Gusinjé, but should help the Prince in obtaining possession of it, which was more than could fairly be expected of the Sultan's Government.

The Emperor replied that his Government had not required this, but they asked that the Sultan should prevent his own subjects from joining the people of Gusinjé to assist them in resisting the entrance of the Montenegrins.

I answered that the Porte was certainly bound to do what it could in this respect; but I took the liberty of reminding His Majesty that he, probably better than any one else, must know the difficulty, in a rugged mountainous country, of preventing kindred and sympathizing races from joining their countrymen across a frontier.

The Emperor took in perfectly good part this allusion to what had been done to so great an extent by his own subjects during the Herzegovinian insurrection, admitting that what I had said was perfectly true, but he said that the Porte must do what it could to prevent the incursions of its subjects into the ceded district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 266.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 19, 1880.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Government a despatch addressed by the Porte to its Representatives abroad, directing them to request that the works of the Bulgarian Frontier Delimitation Commission should be submitted to the Ambassadors at Constantinople, in order to be formally sanctioned.

He has been told that the Imperial Government wish that the question of Arab-Tabia should be first disposed of, but that they will make no difficulty in agreeing to the Turkish proposal if it is accepted by the other Powers.

Edhem Pasha represented the necessity of fixing the boundaries of Bulgaria with the Turkish Provinces as soon as possible, and his arguments respecting the inconvenience of deferring this till the Arab-Tabia question is settled (it being quite uncertain when this may be) appear certainly to have much weight.

I have, &c,
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 267.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 20, 1880.*

IN the Commissions of the Hungarian Delegations yesterday various questions were put to the Government respecting the form of Administration followed in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

It was stated, in reply, that the Administration of these provinces is essentially a civil one, although the head of it is at the same time the Military Commander-in-chief.

It is divided into three separate Departments, i.e., the political, the judicial, and the financial, the Turkish system, to which the people are accustomed, being followed as far as is found practicable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 268.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 21, 1880.*

IN reply to questions addressed by members of the Austrian Delegations respecting the views of the Government with regard to the handing over of Gusinjé and Plava to Montenegro by the Porte, Baron Haymerle declared that the course of Government action in the matter was clearly laid down by the Treaty of Berlin, since, according to the terms of the Treaty of San Stefano, a far larger portion of territory had been assigned to Montenegro, the most part of which she had been compelled to relinquish by the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

It was therefore all the more incumbent upon the Signatory Powers of the latter to see that all its stipulations were fully and justly carried out, and that Montenegro should really receive the territory granted to her by the latter Treaty.

It could scarcely be considered as in any way an act of hostility against any nation whatsoever that the Austro-Hungarian Government, in concert with the other Powers, should endeavour to enforce these stipulations, and he would continue his utmost efforts to bring about a peaceable solution of the question, and with the least possible delay; for should any further complications arise, causing bloodshed on either side, he feared they might prove very injurious to the interests of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 269.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 26.)
Vienna, January 22, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Chargé d'Affaires a few days ago communicated verbally to Baron Haymerle a despatch from M. Freycinet, stating that he entirely adopted M. Waddington's proposal upon the question of the Turco-Greek frontier, and adding that the Governments, excepting that of Her Majesty, had already expressed their concurrence.

In reply to a question on this subject in the Delegations, Baron Haymerle explained that for some time past confidential *pourparlers* had been carried on between certain Governments, with a view to the establishment of a just and equitable line of frontier that would be acceptable to both parties, and that these negotiations had only been interrupted for the time being by the changes in the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 270.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, June 26.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 23 Janvier, 1880.

LA situation des réfugiés qui doivent rentrer dans la Principauté de Bulgarie devient intolérable. S'étant mis en route pour regagner leurs foyers ils se sont vu interdit le passage de la frontière où, exposés aux rigueurs de la saison, ils succombent à la faim et au froid. Il y a là une question d'humanité sur laquelle je vous prie de faire appel aux sentiments de haute équité du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, et qui voudra bien user de toute son influence sur le Gouvernement Bulgare pour l'engager à mettre enfin un terme aux souffrances de ces malheureux, en leur accordant l'autorisation de rentrer dans leurs foyers. Cette impérieuse nécessité concernant les quelques milliers de réfugiés qui meurent sous la neige n'a rien de commun avec le rapatriement définitif des réfugiés à propos duquel le Gouvernement Impérial est disposé à traiter avec la dite Principauté pour établir le *modus faciendi* le plus convenable. Il ne faut donc point confondre ces deux questions, qui sont distinctes, et qu'il faut résoudre séparément.

No. 271.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, January 25, 1880.

YOURS No. 27. Do you wish me to say anything on the subject of Mr. Green's telegram to the Porte?

No. 272.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, January 25, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has communicated to-day to the Porte a telegram from Baron Haymerle, couched in angry language, complaining of the publication in a Turkish newspaper of Protocols preceding the conclusion of the Novi-Bazar Convention without previous consultation with the Austrian Government. Baron Haymerle refers to the conduct of the Porte respecting the proposed visit of the Austrian fleet to Salonica last autumn, and the want of attention and courtesy shown to Count Zichy when he quitted Constantinople, and complains of offensive attacks upon Austria in a Turkish newspaper known to be inspired by the Palace. He wishes to know what all this means —whether or not the Porte wishes to maintain the friendship of Austria. The Prime

Minister declared to Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that he was not responsible for the publication of the Protocols, and did not know who was. Austrian Chargé d'Affaires insisted that an official notice should be inserted in the Turkish newspapers declaring that the Porte was not responsible for their publication, and that the alleged Protocols are not authentic. Prime Minister has promised to give an answer in twenty-four hours. This is another instance of the evident intention of the Palace that the Sultan should quarrel with his ancient friends and allies, and pursue a Russo-French policy.

No. 273.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, January 26, 1880.

YOUR telegram of yesterday, mentioning a suggested compromise upon the Gussinjé question, has been communicated to the Austrian Government, which will take the proposal into consideration and intimate their opinion upon it.

No. 274.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(Telegraphic.)
Bucharest, January 27, 1880, 9 P.M.

THE text of the Railway Bill having been restored so as to satisfy the demands, form has been finally adopted in Chamber of Deputies by deputies, 72 against 42 votes, 11 abstaining.

No. 275.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 27.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.)
Rome, January 27, 1880.

SIR A. H. LAYARD'S telegram No. 38.

Communication has been made here by Turkish Minister relative to the proposed exchange of territory for Gusinjé. Italian Government reluctant to take active part in this matter, but have instructed Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé to endeavour to ascertain if such an exchange would have a chance of acceptance. Count Malfei is anxious to know what your Lordship thinks of the proposal.

No. 276.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, January 27, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

WITH reference to the last paragraph of your despatch No. 57, Secret, received on the 22nd instant, I authorized Mr. Michell, in a telegram sent on the 18th instant, to press M. Schmidt, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to withdraw his resignation, if he thought it desirable, in such terms as he might think fit.

No. 277.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 66.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, January 27, 1880.

WITH reference to the claims of British subjects upon the local Treasury of Damascus for moneys lent by them to it, on which subject your Excellency transmitted to me a copy of a memorandum in your despatch No. 33 of the 2nd instant, I have to instruct your Excellency to continue to press for the promised Financial Commission, to

which allusion is made in the above-mentioned memorandum, with a view to these debts being recognized and recorded, and charged on the Imperial revenues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 278.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Eldridge.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 3, Political, of the 10th instant, on the subject of the bonds on the local Treasury at Damascus held by British subjects, I have to inform you that I have requested Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to continue to press the Porte for the promised Financial Commission which was to have been appointed for the verification of the Serghis and for their renewal, with a view to these debts being recognized and recorded, and charged on the Imperial revenues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY

No. 279.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 27, 1880.*

I HAVE to state to you that I approve your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 12 of the 7th instant, upon learning the particulars of an attack which it is alleged had been perpetrated by an armed body of Bulgarians on the 30th December upon some Mussulmans encamped at Hissar, near Carlovo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 280.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, January 14, 1880.*

CONSIDERABLE importance appears to be attached by both the Turks and Montenegrins, and also by some of the foreign Representatives here, as to which party was the aggressor in the conflicts of the 4th December and 8th instant, near Gusinjé.

No doubt exists in my mind that the Albanians fell unexpectedly upon the Montenegrins on the 4th December, and that they did so as they believed the Montenegrins were gradually creeping round to positions beyond Velika which would cut off Gusinjé from its line of communication with Ipek.

With regard to the second engagement, I am not able to form a decided opinion, although I believe that so determined were both parties to resort to violence, that no value ought to be attached to the political capital now sought to be gained by the Montenegrin and Albanian attempts to fix the responsibility of the commencement of the conflict from one to the other.

The Montenegrin Government cannot now recall the threats which it made through its Representative at Constantinople, and through the notes communicated to the Great Powers, of seizing upon Gusinjé by violence; and the fact also remains that a force of from between 5,000 and 6,000 Montenegrins was hurriedly sent to the locality provided with provisions for about eight days.

This concentration, it is now explained, was in conformity with the arrangements made with the Porte for the surrender of Gusinjé by Moukhtar Pasha; but it was subsequent to the engagements of the 4th December, and necessarily after all reasonable hope of a peaceful cession by the Turkish General had vanished.

On the other hand, I was informed many days before the 8th instant, by Mahommedan Albanians connected with Gusinjé, that a serious attack was being prepared

against the Montenegrins, and the reinforcements sent from Ipek and Jacova, and admitted by Moukhtar Pasha, were openly declared to have been dispatched in connection with the impending advance.

The existing depression of the Montenegrins cannot escape the most superficial observer, notwithstanding the ceaseless endeavours of all connected with the Government to have its version of the military operations near Gusinjé accepted as exact.

During all the dangers and trials commencing from 1875 up to the end of the war not a murmur of discontent was heard in Montenegro against the Prince or the Government, but now I have been surprised by the unhesitating manner in which, on all sides, the Montenegrins express their dissatisfaction with the policy which has led them once more to be fighting with the Albanians. The disinclination of the people to recommence hostilities has been so great that, when the district battalions were recently summoned to arms, there were numerous instances of refusal to obey the call, and which had never been known to occur before.

Too much importance, however, must not be given to the present dissatisfaction and to the revulsion of feeling caused by the checks sustained by the Montenegrins at the hands of the Albanians.

The Montenegrin Government has already perceived the mistake it has committed in engaging itself in military operations during the depth of winter in a mountainous district, with altitudes which endow it with an Alpine climate, and, after sounding the public feeling, it has rapidly commenced to withdraw its battalions, leaving the task of defending the old frontier-lines, as before, to the inhabitants of the localities.

It evidently hopes before spring returns to have secured the co-operation of Austria in obtaining Gusinjé, and probably, if this is not possible, it will be able to exact from Russia sufficient money to facilitate the operation of fanning anew the flame of a Montenegrin crusade against Mahommedan neighbours; and, judging from the past, the Albanians will not be able to resist successfully an attack from which enthusiasm will not be absent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 281.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, January 16, 1880.*

THE soreness pervading all connected with the Prince and the Montenegrin Government on the subject of the recent checks suffered near Gusinjé made me clearly understand that a disposition existed to shift the blame and responsibility of what had occurred on to the Governments which had recently urged the Prince to abstain from violence, and to rely on the engagements of the Porte to secure the peaceable surrender of Gusinjé. I, therefore, had determined to return to Scutari without giving any one here an opportunity of expressing to me, at all events, such an opinion.

When, however, I ascertained the return of General Bojo Petrovich to Cettinjé, and the intended withdrawal of most of the force after the execution of the retrograde movement to the old Montenegrin frontiers, I decided to tender to the Prince's Government advice which I thought ought not be withheld, no matter how small the chance of its acceptance might be.

Voïvoda Radonich, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, having kindly called upon me this morning by appointment, I explained to him that I seldom found it necessary to offer to the Montenegrin Government advice which was not equally supported by my colleagues. Counsels, as a rule, came from the Representatives of Governments which had paramount interests in the Principality, but, as I had been unable to ascertain that any had now been offered, I felt bound to request M. Radonich not to listen to me with less attention because I, for the moment, stood alone.

I observed that I had been informed that the Montenegrin Government had decided to take up defensive positions on its frontiers near Gusinjé, and abstain from all active operations to obtain possession of that district until the end of the winter. Was this so?

M. Radonich replied that he believed I was correctly informed.

I wished to know if assurances would be given in this sense to the Great Powers,

and the Montenegrin Minister stated that they would not, as the Prince could not in any way tie his hands, and must be guided by circumstances.

But, I asked—and M. Radonich admitted it—was it not a physical certainty that no military operations could be carried out for at least two months to come in the district of Gusinjé; and, therefore, what other object had the Montenegrin Government, by refusing to publish its inability to move, than to keep the political world on the alert?

I pointed out that the Prince had, even when determined to follow a course of his own in the Gusinjé question, not thought it inexpedient to make a semblance of acting in accord with the Great Powers by causing notes to be addressed to their Representatives to explain beforehand the measures he proposed taking. As Her Majesty's Government had not yet informed me of the view they take of the Montenegrin memorandum of the 26th ultimo, I necessarily must abstain for the present from commenting on it, but I believed the Prince's Government already regretted the birth of this document, and would not be sorry to have it effaced.

I now begged M. Radonich to take serious notice of my suggestion that a note should be addressed to the foreign Representatives detailing the military positions taken up by the Montenegrin troops on the old frontiers, and giving a distinct assurance to the Great Powers that no advance or offensive movement would be made from those positions for the next two months. Great anxiety was evinced to prove that the Albanians had been the assailants in the recent conflicts; if the whole line of defence now taken up could be distinctly traced on the map, should the Montenegrins be again attacked there would be no difficulty in deciding who had broken the peace, as the localities of the struggle would show which side had advanced to them.

By following the course suggested the Montenegrin Government would show that it is not always trying to force the line of conduct of the European Powers by its actions, and the assurance that nothing would occur from the side of the Principality for eight weeks at least to disturb the peace might greatly facilitate the steps with the Porte which the Powers might be disposed to take for a settlement of the question.

I was also sure that, as soon as the decision of Montenegro became known, the agitation in Albania would be calmed, and a dispersion of the forces at Gusinjé would probably occur, thus giving an opportunity to the Porte to reassert its authority in the disturbed districts; and if, after all, nothing could be definitively arranged, the resistance of the Albanians might be rendered less formidable.

The rejection of my advice would perhaps give colour to the belief, which was now not quite absent, that the Prince was not acting solely for the advancement of the interests of his country. A continuance of the commotion in Albania could not possibly help Montenegro to a further increase of territory, as it had already reached the limits of its growth; but the development of disorder and anarchy in a Turkish province was doubtless not opposed to the policy always followed by Russia against the Ottoman Empire. I thought it might not be impossible that a time would arrive when Montenegrins would ask themselves the question whether fighting for the political ends of third parties was not profitless.

Voïvoda Radonich said he would not fail to communicate to the Prince the advice I had officially tendered to him; but he felt sure that the Montenegrin Government could not compromise the expectant position it had assumed, and that, therefore, the memorandum of the 26th ultimo must still be taken as the guide laid down for its conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 282.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 28.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Salonica, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, on the subject of Albanian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 282.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, January 16, 1880.*

THIS evening I sent your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"Recent letters from North Albania state that serious conflicts have occurred at Plava between Albanians and Montenegrins resulting in defeat of latter, and that the Albanians will not listen to Moukhtar Pasha, and have disarmed a brigade of four battalions of Turkish infantry marching to Ipek. Ahmet Pasha and officers commanding brigade have arrived at Mitrovitza, where they were arrested, it is said, by Moukhtar Pasha's orders.

"I would strongly recommend our having an efficient Agent at Prisrend, to watch and report further events, which threaten to become more serious."

I inclose a translated copy of one of the private letters from which I have derived most of the above particulars.

Your Excellency will observe that the Albanians put forward the ill-treatment and sufferings to which the Mahommedan refugees are subjected as a justification of their opposition to the surrender of Gusinjé and Plava to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 282.

Extract from a Letter from Jacova, North Albania, to a Turkish Notable of Salonica.

(Translation.)

FOUR battalions of Imperial troops, under the command of his Excellency Ahmet Pasha, a brigadier of artillery, marching from Pristina to Ipek with arms and other military stores, were captured by Albanians at a place near Ipek without a struggle.

Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha called together Essad Kalkandelenly Pasha, Hassan Derelily, and a number of Albanian leaders, and pointed out to them the necessity of the cession of Gusinjé to Montenegro, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin.

The leaders, while consenting to the cession of this district, requested its announcement in the proper localities for the information of the people. Thereupon Moukhtar Pasha published the requisite Proclamations at Ipek and Jacova.

The purport of these Proclamations was the abandonment of their country by the people of Gusinjé. But the people, while bearing in mind the misfortunes to which the present refugees are subject, though on every side poor people are dying from starvation and want of assistance, firmly replied that they were ready to take up arms and to trust their lives to fate, and returned the Proclamation.

These are the explanations of the Albanians:—

"It is evident that as our aims are not rebellion we have never at any time wished to take up arms; that no State (foreign Government) is aware of our present condition, and that we are fit for every kind reform.

"Preferring everything, even death, to the surrender of our country and property and to destruction while wandering hither and thither, we have begun war, and, thank God, have gained a glorious victory. On the banks of the Lim we beat nearly 1,500 Montenegrins, and Marco Milan, one of their Generals, was wounded and died in the space of five days.

"We entered the Montenegrin territory a distance of three hours, and expect to have another great battle."

A detailed account of the result will be sent.

No. 283.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 28.*)

(No. 4. Political. Secret.)

Salonica, January 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a further despatch which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to Albanian affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 283.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)

Salonica, January 17, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch on the subject of Albanian affairs, I have this day read a letter from Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, dated the 14th instant, and containing the following paragraph:—

"Les Albanais n'écoutent jamais aucun conseil; ils ont même décidés entre eux de se défendre si le Gouvernement emploiera la force pour les mettre à la raison. J'espère toujours à réussir, mais lentement.

"Mr. Blunt est libre d'en donner connaissance à Sir Layard, mais toujours en secret.

"Je ne désire pas rester ici . . . . . mais que faire."

The rest of the letter refers to his family, and the disposition of his property under certain contingencies, and is written in very desponding terms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 284.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 28.*)

(No. 5. Political.)

Salonica, January 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and its two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, relative to the relief of the Mahommedan refugees in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 284.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, January 17, 1880.

Sir,

THE local authorities and the community at large recognize with feelings of deep gratitude the prompt response you have given to the appeal I addressed to your Excellency for the relief of the numerous Mahommedan refugees in Macedonia.

As I telegraphed to your Excellency, I shall apply the 1,000*l.* you have placed at my disposal for the relief of these refugees, to the purchase of Indian corn and rye, the staple food of the peasant class in this country.

I have already made arrangements with the manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank here, who holds Government tithes at Nevrocop and Djuma, for the early delivery on the spot of the quantity of breadstuffs I may require in those districts. This will obviate heavy charges on the fund; and as Colonel Synge has very kindly undertaken to superintend the management of this charitable work, your Excellency, I am sure, will be satisfied that the handsome contribution you have placed at my disposal will be employed in a manner to reach the most necessitous.

Colonel Synge left early this morning for Serres; and I took care that he should be furnished with the necessary instructions from the Vali requiring the district authorities to afford him every proper assistance.

He will reach Nevrocop on or about the 21st instant, and thence will send me for transmission to your Excellency the fullest information relative to the condition of the refugees in that and neighbouring districts, and to the relief of their distress.

There are some 60,000 Mahommedan refugees in the vilayet of Salonica alone, most of whom are involved in absolute destitution. According to the inclosed Return 30,000 of them are in receipt of Government relief, which consists of a small ration of bread per day to each individual and, which through mismanagement, not unfrequently misapplied.

Cries of distress have also reached me from Mahommedan refugees in other provinces included in my Consular district, particularly from those in the vilayet of Cossova.

Mr. Cooper, who has recently visited that part of the country, has begged me to forward the inclosed appeal to your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 284.

ESTIMATE of the Number of Refugees in the Province who receive Relief.

Districts.	Adults.	Children.	Total.	Grand Total.
Salonica	..	..	3,040	
Catterina	312	25	337	
Langaza	182	42	224	
Kupruli	3,804	807	4,611	
Tikish	780	221	1,001	
Vodina	117	33	150	
Yenidjé Vardar	75	25	100	
Avret-hissar	90	6	96	
Doirun	174	50	224	
Stroumnitza	..	..	2,300	
Cassandra	..	..	300	
Caraferia	..	..	100	
				12,486
Sandjak of Serres—				
Serres	..	..	2,000	
Petrich	..	..	504	
Novrocop	..	..	3,858	
Demir-hissar	..	..	963	
Menlik	..	..	169	
Zehna	..	..	181	
Djuma	2,238	449	2,687	
				10,552
Sandjak of Drama—				
Drama	5,191	652	5,843	
Cavala	633	109	742	
Sari Shaban	555	129	684	
				7,269
				30,107

The refugees in the province of Salonica who receive relief amount to 30,000 souls, with those who are not relieved, to from 50,000 to 60,000.

Inclosure 3 in No. 284.

Mr. Cooper to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, January 16, 1880.

Sir,

KNOWING the interest Sir Henry Layard and yourself take in the condition of the unfortunate Mahommedan refugees, and having quite lately visited some of the towns along the railway where a great number of them are still to be found, I feel it a duty to inform you that they are in a most pitiable condition; the local authorities having stopped

the rations granted to them since the war, they are, particularly in Kiupruli, dying of hunger.

I have been assured by a person of high position, entirely worthy of confidence, that in the above-mentioned place in Uscup, Yanicovo, near Pristina, and in Prisrend, children are dying of hunger in the arms of their half-famished and helpless mothers. As you are aware, the women are unable to do any work; the young men are gone, and the old alone remain; and looking on their present condition, I fear indeed that many must die before the winter is over. A sad circumstance only increases their misery; for years past the inhabitants of these regions have not experienced such a severe winter.

Allow me, therefore, to make an earnest appeal to your well-known philanthropic feelings, and to beg you in the name of suffering humanity to place the matter in the hands of our energetic and kind Ambassador.

Remember that these poor people have no one to defend their cause, it is why I have taken the liberty to address you this letter.

You can make the use you think proper of this appeal.

Believe, &c.

(Signed) A. COOPER,
Imperial Commissioner of Ottoman Railways.

No. 285.

Count de Bylandt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 28.)

Londres, le 26 Janvier, 1880.

M. le Marquis,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence qu'il a plu au Roi, mon auguste Souverain, de reconnaître la Principauté de Roumanie comme Etat indépendant.

Le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté a toujours été d'avis que la décision qu'il aurait à proposer au Roi à cet égard ne devait être subordonnée qu'à la solution définitive et satisfaisante de la question religieuse dans la Principauté. Cette solution étant maintenant intervenue, Sa Majesté n'a pas hésité à prendre une résolution que lui dictaient les convenances internationales en même temps que ses sympathies personnelles, en reconnaissant une dynastie que des liens de parenté unissent à la Maison Royale des Pays-Bas.

A cette occasion le Roi a trouvé bon d'élever le Consulat-Général des Pays-Bas à Bucarest au rang d'Agence Diplomatique.

En informant votre Excellence de ce qui précède, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) C. DE BYLANDT.

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 28, 1880, 2 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 45.

Renew recommendation to Porte to settle Gusinjé question. Remind them that, if Montenegro were to choose to make reprisals, they have given Montenegro fair excuse, and none of the Powers could help them.

No. 287.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, January 28, 1880, 2·45 P.M.

I AM very glad your energetic exertions have at last led to signature of Slave Trade Convention.

No. 288.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard

(No. 67.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, January 28, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 45 of the 25th instant, I have to instruct you again to represent to the Porte the necessity of arriving at a speedy settlement of the Gussinjé-Plava question. Your Excellency would do well to remind the Sultan's Government that the delay which has occurred in the surrender of this district to Montenegro, and the want of energy shown by the Turkish authorities in making no efforts to check the hostilities which have recently been directed by the Albanians against the Montenegrin troops, have given the latter a fair pretext for making reprisals, and you should point out to the Porte that, in the event of such an occurrence, the Ottoman Government could not count upon the support of any of the European Powers.

A telegram in this sense has been sent to your Excellency to-day.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 289.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord,

Cettinjé, January 17, 1880.

GENERAL BOJO PETROVICH, who was in command of the Montenegrin troops around Gusinjé-Plava when the engagements of the 4th December and 8th instant took place, is loud in proclaiming his conviction that the Albanians are not only in possession of the sympathy and secret support of the Turkish authorities, but also that they are guided and led by officers and soldiers of the regular army.

M. Petrovich, who during the late war directed all the operations on the Albanian side of the Principality, and who has consequently great experience of the manner in which the Arnaouts fought, tells me that a complete change appears to have been effected over them. This was especially noticeable, he says, in the last engagement, when the advance of the Albanians was perfect, from a military and strategic point of view; and now, instead of, as formerly, being a rabble of armed men obeying no chief, the Albanians operate in companies and battalions, and are manœuvred by orders sounded with the bugle.

Although I have never entertained the slightest doubt that the Albanians at Gusinjé possess the good-will of all Turks, I am disposed to believe what Albanians themselves have told me of their new organization and tactics.

They say that they had many opportunities in fighting against the Russians and Austrians to convince themselves of the advantages of discipline and order, and as the reduction of the Turkish army has set many officers and men free, there is nothing surprising that they should be amply provided with leaders and non-commissioned officers to give a regular organization to their forces. The Montenegrins, in fact, by adopting these reforms earlier, owe to them many of the successes of the last few years.

General Petrovich also declares that whilst he was near Gusinjé his spies informed him that Moukhtar Pasha sent to Ali Pasha 500 Martini-Peabody rifles and a great quantity of ammunition. As the whole of North Albania has been armed for the last four years with either Martini, Snider, or Winchester rifles, and some few Enfields, I can hardly believe that there was any need for Moukhtar Pasha to furnish the arms in question; and, owing to the culpable negligence of the Turkish authorities during the past war, sufficient cartridges were removed from the public stores to last the Albanians for several years.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 290.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 15. Political. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, January 20, 1880.

My Lord,

AFTER I had the honour of addressing to your Lordship my despatch No. 11, Political, of the 10th instant, I hoped for a moment that Prince Nicholas would attempt to secure for his Principality the support of all the Great Powers by frankly acknowledging his error in risking the peace re-established in these regions with so much trouble, and by publishing his intention to leave his interests for the future completely in their keeping.

This, it appears, is now not likely to occur, and the Representatives of the two Powers most interested in Montenegro seem not to be displeased with his Highness' decision. At all events, Colonel Thömmel, the Austrian Minister, tells me that he is much satisfied with the inaction he has observed in the whole question of Gusinjé, and that he thinks the Turks and Montenegrins must be left unimpeded to settle their differences between themselves.

In other words, as I have said to my colleague, this means inevitable hostilities in the early spring; and as Colonel Thömmel is as convinced as I am that the Albanians have at their back the Turks, and that the Montenegrins must have the benevolent support of Austria if they are not to be assisted by Russia, I cannot understand his satisfaction with the position of affairs.

Although three months have yet to elapse before any serious operations can be attempted in the direction of Gusinjé, I have no hesitation in expressing my belief that if a peaceful settlement is expected to result from diplomatic pressure to be exercised on the Porte, the spring will still find the Albanians as insensible to the results of such action as hitherto, and that the freedom to be accorded to Montenegro will be equally disastrous.

Instead of the inaction advocated by Colonel Thömmel, and no doubt applauded by our Russian colleague, I urge that Austria can with ease exercise sufficient pressure on Montenegro to obtain full powers from the Prince to settle the Gusinjé question as may seem best for his country.

Prince Nicholas has so long been used as a tool of revolutionary plans, that a time ought to arrive when he will be made to understand that the tranquillity of Europe is not solely in his keeping.

If there exist Austrian views of further extension southwards, the present permission accorded for the sinking of the mine to be exploded in the spring gives them colour; but still I hardly perceive the value or necessity of lighting such a firebrand as Montenegro.

The idea that Austria is desirous to see the Principality weakened by a difficult struggle is hardly sufficient, as Imperial reasons in Dalmatia render obligatory the protection of Montenegro when too hard pressed.

There is one other way of solving the Gusinjé question to which history points. The Albanians have always been found incapable of remaining faithful to their cause or allies when tempted with money. As the Porte cannot use force, it may, if not utterly bankrupt, attempt corruption of the Chiefs, only the utility of doing so would depend on the sincerity of all sides in the desire to secure tranquillity in Albania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 291.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 16. Political. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, January 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that since my arrival here ten days ago I have daily observed a great number of cases of cartridges being transported towards Rieka and Podgoritza. The cases, it is said, are withdrawn from the stores at Niegosch to be distributed to the troops on the Albanian frontier, but they all bear Austrian tickets, and may quite well be coming from Cattaro instead of from Niegosch. I had, further, not heard before that the local magazines in the Principality had been exhausted.

Large supplies of biscuit and flour are also being dispatched from Rieka, where they

have arrived by the River Boyana and Lake Scutari, to Podgoritza, and where considerable depôts of these provisions had been formed already, some months ago.

Mahommedans assure me that they have been told by Montenegrins at Podgoritza that these supplies belong to the Austrian Government, but it is possible that they have been purposely misinformed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 292.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Cettinjé, January 20, 1880.

My Lord,

COLONEL THÖMMEL has informed me that, having been requested by Baron Haymerle to ascertain whether there was any truth in the report which had been telegraphed to his Excellency from Constantinople that Prince Nicholas had become disposed to treat for an exchange of the Gusinjé-Plava district, he, this morning, brought the matter under His Highness' notice.

The Prince authorized Colonel Thömmel to reply that the report was one of the meaningless fabrications so frequently emanating from Constantinople, and that he was as determined as ever to stand by the rights obtained for Montenegro by the Treaty of Berlin, and would never consent to barter any of the territories conceded to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 293.

Extract of a Private Letter from Mr. Consul Sanderson.—(Received January 29.)

(Most Confidential.)

Galatz, January 19, 1880.

YOU will know, of course, that at the time the Jewish question came forward in the Chambers there was a great commotion, and, amongst other matters, the question of a separation between Moldavia and Wallachia was advocated by some of the papers. This was merely looked upon as idle talk, and probably was nothing more at the time. Since then, however, Prince Gregory Stourdza has been put forward as the head of a party called the National Democratic party, and it seems that the separation is a part of their programme in the event of their not being able to get rid of the present Ministry by other means.

In the first place, Prince Gregory Stourdza is the son of old Michaïl Stourdza, Prince of Moldavia from 1834 to 1845, who is still alive, living in Paris, I believe, but upwards of 90 years old. He is not on the best of terms with his father, who is enormously rich, they say, and till latterly he has not had very large sums of money to dispose of; at the present time he has unlimited credit with the bankers at Jassy at any rate, and this is explained by the fact that his sister married Gortchacow's son, and that, in the event of a separation of the two Principalities coming about, he is to be the Prince of Moldavia, and to govern under Russian protection. The question is, of course, whether there is really anything serious in this. It seemed to me that the Bucharest world (I do not mean Mr. White) were not much troubled by it, and the local papers seem to take little notice of it. I had a long talk with a man yesterday who is in a position to know about these things, and is not interested in the question. He told me that, if the Ministry think this is a trifling matter, they are making a great mistake; the party is gaining ground every day; Conservatives are coming to join its ranks, and even Liberals have offered themselves, but, as this might be a Ministerial trap, the latter are received very cautiously, and not initiated into the mysteries. Everything is conducted with the profoundest secrecy. The Dobradscha seems to be the head-quarters of the organization, and an active propaganda is going on in Moldavia, more especially among the frontier guard and the militia just now. He seemed to think that the publication of a newspaper, "Democratia Nationala," at Bucharest, was rather a manœuvre to keep the attention of the authorities fixed in a direction which was outside the circle of their operations. He said, however, it was well written, and likely to take. The Secretary of the Central Committee is a man

of the name of Borsch; Jassy, Toultcha, and Kustendjie seem each to have their Committee; Galatz has none as yet, but, as the said Mr. Borsch is connected with Varlan, one of the members of the Senate for Galatz, it is probable that, if they do form a Committee, Varlan will be on it. Galatz, however, is very much out of the range of politics, there is so large a preponderance of foreigners among the population.

This is the position pretty well as far as I know it at present. It seems that one influential man at least is about joining the party, and Cogalniccano, at present Minister of the Interior, is, as every one knows, a man who is guided by consideration for his pocket. Somebody remarked that it would not surprise him if Bratiano eventually joined, but this, I think, is a calumny.

As regards other matters, four Russian engineer officers did arrive at Galatz as I had been led to expect; two put up at the Hotel Müller, two at the Hotel Dacia. Those at the Hotel Müller, an old man and a young one, waited the arrival of Colonel Peiu, of the Roumanian engineers, from the Dobrudscha, and then all three left for Bucharest. Colonel Peiu has lately been employed building barracks for the Roumanian troops at Toultcha, and it may be that his work there is finished, and this would account for the return of some 200 workmen with their tools, if these really did go from here in the first instance; they tell me he is a thoroughly honest man, and one not likely to take part in an intrigue. I don't make out why he is in close relations with Russian engineer officers unless he has been detailed for some special duty. Beyond this there is nothing new that I am aware of.

What strikes me is this: one can't make up one's mind that Russia seriously contemplates a war with Austria, but, supposing a tolerably successful movement was got up in Moldavia tending to disunite the two Principalities, and put Moldavia under Russian protection, would she not be inclined to back it up, and that with something more than "moral influence"? The officers in the Roumanian army are talking of something happening, not just yet, but in the spring, or at any rate the summer; and in the waiting-room at one of the stations I heard one declare that, not only would there be something startling shortly, but that he knew that the Russian Government had offered to the Roumanian the Bucovina and a part of Transylvania if they would join them against Austria; that the Roumanian Government had replied that they must have 17,000,000 fr. first to buy arms and put the army in order, and there matters rested. Of course, this is all nonsense, but I quote it to show you the kind of talk that is going on; and I may add that on the Exchange here lists are again being circulated for voluntary subscriptions for the purchase of arms, and some fairly large sums, for this place, have been given in many cases by foreigners.

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 29, 1880, 1·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 6.

We should also approve of it if it had a chance of acceptance, but we have no assurance on that head.

No. 296.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, January* 29, 1880, 3·50 P.M.

WHAT is the name of the Turkish newspaper published in Cyprus, the seizure of which in the English post has been asked for by Syrian authorities, as reported by Mr. Eldridge?

No. 297.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29, 5 P.M.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, January* 29, 1880, 3 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs appears not indisposed to support the compromise about Gusinjé, provided Turkey and Montenegro both agree to it. But the fact of the territory proposed to be ceded to Montenegro being inhabited by Catholics, who may object to be annexed, will perhaps create a difficulty.

In any case, he says, it will be necessary for the Porte to define the proposal more accurately.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 38.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 29, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 27th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government would also approve of the Turkish proposal with regard to exchange of territory for Gusinjé, if there were any probability of its acceptance by the Montenegrin Government. Her Majesty's Government have, however, no assurance on that head.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 299.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30, 1880.)

(No. 431.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, December* 31, 1879.

THE Greek Deputy for the districts of Achiolou and Messemvria called the attention of the Government some time ago, as reported in my despatch No. 400 of the 6th instant, to the unsatisfactory condition of the local Tribunals.

On the 15th instant the Acting Director of Justice replied to the interpellation of M. Argyriades by denying that the superior Tribunals of Eastern Roumelia were any worse than those of "States which had already existed more than fifty years," although "it was impossible that they should be faultless." He also censured the Deputy for using deprecatory language in respect to the manner in which the Judges exercised their functions, and requested him in conclusion to point out the measures that could be adopted over and above those which the Government had already introduced in order to improve the administration of justice.

As the reply of M. Argyriades is a perfectly correct exposition of the negligence of the Government in the matter of establishing an impartial and competent administration of justice in this province, I venture to submit it to your Lordship in the form of an extract from the "Philippoupolis."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 299.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of December 24, 1879.

Philippopoli, le 3 Décembre, 1879.

DISCOURS de M. Michel Argyriades, Député d'Anchialo :—

"Messieurs,

"Je dois avant tout remercier M. le Directeur de la Justice pour avoir été assez bon de répondre à l'interpellation que j'ai faite au sujet du mauvais état de nos Tribunaux. Mais quelque gré que je lui en sache, je ne puis cependant passer sous silence quelques-uns de ses arguments justificatifs, qui sont, à mon avis, bien faibles et d'une justesse fort douteuse. Je désirerais et je pourrais réfuter un à un tous les points du discours de M. le Directeur, mais comme malheureusement je ne suis pas très-versé dans l'idiome Bulgare, je n'ai pu en comprendre tous les détails; force m'est fait par conséquent de me restreindre malgré moi à réfuter ceux de ses arguments, dont j'ai saisi le sens.

"N'ayant rien d'important à objecter contre mon interpellation, M. le Directeur a détourné assez adroitement la difficulté: il a employé l'ironie et donne à mon discours la gentille qualification de jérémiade. Il prétend que des raisons toutes autres que celles du bien du pays ont dicté mes paroles; mais tout en soutenant cette thèse, il a soin de glisser dessus. C'est un moyen comme un autre de se tirer d'embarras; mais quelque habile que soit son échappatoire, elle ne saurait tromper que ceux qui veulent bien l'être.

"Je n'ai pas besoin d'assurer à M. le Directeur, quoi qu'il en dise, que le désir de voir prospérer ma patrie a été mon seul objectif; j'en appelle à l'impartialité de mon auditoire, qui a bien voulu prêter l'oreille au développement de mon interpellation.

"Pour justifier la situation peu satisfaisante des Tribunaux, M. le Directeur dit qu'il était matériellement impossible d'obtenir des résultats plus grands dans un si court espace de temps.

"Mais je ne me rappelle pas non plus avoir exigé le moins du monde que nos Tribunaux soient un modèle de perfection; j'ai seulement dit qu'il serait à souhaiter que leur organisation ne laisse pas tant à désirer et que la justice et l'impartialité soient les seuls guides de nos Juges dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions. Malheureusement cela n'a pas lieu, et cependant si l'on faisait le choix des Juges avec plus d'intelligence et d'attention, si l'on cherchait à relever le moindre écart qu'ils font, la situation de nos Tribunaux n'en serait que meilleure et les Juges se garderaient bien de retomber deux fois dans la même faute. Ainsi le Tribunal de Haskeui a rendu avec une légèreté inconcevable une sentence injuste sur une importante affaire, et celui de Sténimach s'est mêlé deux ou trois fois de juger le pétitoire; a-t-on seulement adressé pour cela un mot de blâme aux Juges de ces Tribunaux? Non; car autrement ils seraient plus attentifs dans l'avenir et ne commettraient pas plusieurs fois la même faute. Comment donc pouvait-on s'attendre à signaler quelque progrès dans la branche judiciaire, du moment que l'autorité supérieure négligeait de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour arrêter le mal à sa racine? On n'avait cependant qu'à essayer de punir les récidivistes, pour voir que la punition porterait ses fruits; les résultats en seraient salutaires et les anomalies qu'on remarque actuellement dans l'organisation des Tribunaux disparaîtraient insensiblement.

"Entre autres choses, M. le Directeur fait observer que les Juges sont des hommes, et comme tels ils sont sujets à se tromper. J'admets cette vérité en principe; mais j'ai l'honneur de lui dire que les erreurs de ce genre n'ont ordinairement lieu que dans les questions obscures et embrouillées; alors, à moins qu'un incident fortuit ne vienne aider les magistrats à démêler la vérité, ils sont obligés de baser leur jugement sur les apparences, qui sont souvent contre les prévenus. Mais ce n'est pas du tout le cas dans l'affaire de Haskeui: les Juges n'avaient pas besoin d'avoir le don de l'infaillibilité pour découvrir la vérité; et la preuve c'est qu'elle se fit jour, lorsque cette même affaire fut portée devant la section criminelle de la Cour d'Appel de Philippopoli.

"Je rejette entièrement l'objection de M. le Directeur qui dit que le mal n'est pas grand si les Juges se trompent quelquefois, du moment que les Cours d'Appel ont été instituées justement pour relever les écarts que pourront commettre les Juges en question. D'abord ce n'est pas une raison, parce qu'on peut interjeter appel, que les Tribunaux inférieurs rendent trop à la légère des sentences injustes; il faut ensuite remarquer qu'il arrive très-souvent que des personnes simples perdent une cause juste, parce qu'elles ne connaissent pas en détail ou ignorent complétement toutes les formes judiciaires et négligent par conséquent de se pourvoir en appel. Mais j'admets pour un moment que les objections de M. le Directeur soient justes; je le prie de me dire en ce cas pourquoi le Tribunal de Haskeui a condamné les prévenus aux travaux forcés à perpétuité, tandis que, conformément à la loi, le crime dont ils étaient accusés n'impliquait pas un châtiment si sévère?

"M. le Directeur se garde bien de répondre à ce que j'avais dit dans le temps au sujet de la Cour Supérieure de Justice; il se borne tout simplement à exprimer des doutes sur ma compétence d'examiner une pareille question. Cette façon de répondre à quelqu'un me paraît fort étrange; et plus étrange est encore l'opinion de M. Joachim Grueff.

"Il m'est avis que les Députés ont droit d'examiner toute injustice, quelqu'en soit l'auteur; qu'elle émane de l'autorité supérieure ou inférieure peu importe; et je trouve même fort désobligeant pour mes honorables collègues que M. le Directeur se permette de s'exprimer d'une telle façon sur leur compétence d'examiner ce qui concerne la Cour d'Appel. Je m'abstiens d'émettre mon opinion sur les personnes qui composent la Cour Supérieure de Justice; je sais seulement que ce Tribunal a été partial dans son jugement, et il l'a clairement prouvé dans les procès des élections de Sténimach et de Philippopoli, et que la section criminelle de la Cour d'Appel n'a pas condamné, après jugement, les témoins qui ont fait de fausses dépositions dans l'affaire de Haskeui. Je conclus en disant que si M. le Directeur peut prouver le contraire, il n'a qu'à le faire."

No. 300.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, January 8, 1880.*

THE inclosed article, published on the 7th instant in the "Maritza," states that the Provincial Assembly has voted a sum of 40,000 liras "for the benefit of Turkish refugees," and a further sum of 62,000 liras "for the purchase of cattle, and for other requirements of the necessitous agricultural classes."

In his address at the closing of the Assembly, the Governor-General referred to the first amount as a sum which had been disbursed in advances to certain communities which had suffered, and to the second as a vote which had been demanded by the Government for the purpose of relieving "the necessitous, so numerous in this province, and principally the Mussulman refugees."

These statements, and particularly those of the semi-official "Maritza," are calculated to produce an erroneous impression on the public mind of Europe.

I beg, therefore, to submit to your Lordship the facts to which those statements refer.

1. As regards the sum of £ T. 62,000, the inclosed statement, taken from an official source, shows that its application is intended to be as follows:—

		£ T.
(*a.*)	For the reconstruction of two towns and two villages, inhabited almost exclusively by Bulgarians	17,000
(*b.*)	Aid to Christians who have evacuated Turkish houses	15,000
(*c.*)	Loan of seed	25,000
(*d.*)	Advances to Turks for purchase of cattle	5,000
		62,000

So far as the Mussulman refugees are concerned, it may be expected that out of the above sum they will have the temporary benefit of about one-half of the value of

the seed distributed, and of the further sum of £ T. 5,000 for the purchase of cattle. The latter sum was only included in the Budget just before the closing of the Assembly at the instance of M. Schmidt, after the sufferings of the refugees had been brought before the Government in a very urgent manner.

Consequently the share of the suffering Mussulman population, the only class which is in a state of absolute destitution, may be taken at about £ T. 18,000, or 30 per cent. of the sum of £ T. 62,000, voted by the Assembly out of Revenue.

2. The sum of £ T. 40,000 which is to be applied more especially for the relief of the Mussulman refugees, is to be taken only to the extent or £ T. 10,000 out of the provincial revenue. The balance, or £ T. 30,000, will be drawn from a fund of about £ T. 40,000 still in the hands of the Government, and representing the value of property (cattle, &c.) sold, and the amount of rent collected on behalf of absent Mussulman proprietors whose names are to some extent unrecorded. The Director of Finance stated in his Budget Report of the 2nd ultimo, that the above-mentioned fund of £ T. 40,985 represented the still available balance of a sum of £ T. 44,000 which had been handed over to the Local Government by the European Commission as "the proceeds of sale of, and the revenue collected from, the property of Turkish refugees."

It is now contended that since the value of a drove of pigs has been found included in that fund, the latter cannot be considered as the exclusive property of a race which has no dealings in pork.

However that may be, the Government has proposed, and the Assembly has agreed, that the necessitous classes, and principally the Turkish refugees, shall be relieved out of that fund, and out of an additional sum of £ T. 10,000 taken from revenue, in the following manner:—

The Prefects of the several departments are charged with the duty of distributing grants of money and making money advances, with a view more especially to the speedy settlement of the claims of Mussulmans in respect to the shares of crops due to them by Christains. A very numerous class of defaulters under the latter head have already left the country, viz., the Bulgarians who had been induced by the Russian Administration to settle on Turkish lands in this province, and who have since very largely returned to their original homes in the Province of Adrianople. The remaining debtors of the starving Mussulman refugees are Bulgarians who, for the most part, plead inability to discharge their debts in consequence of the smallness of the crops which they reaped last autumn.

In both these cases it is intended that the Government shall take over the debt, and, paying the Mussulman refugees out of the Mussulman fund, recover the amount from the Bulgarian debtor after the next harvest.

There can be very little doubt that the Mussulman refugees will be relieved in the manner above stated exclusively out of the Mussulman fund, of which the European Commission succeeded in obtaining possession, and that the balance of £ T. 10,000 (taken out of revenue) will be applied to the necessities which will no doubt be discovered to exist among the Bulgarian peasantry.

The sacrifices of the province out of current revenue for the benefit of the Turkish refugees are therefore in reality only represented by the sum of about £ T. 18,000, which, as I have already shown, is to be advanced to them on easy terms in seed, and for the purchase of cattle.

The remainder of the relief accorded takes almost entirely the form of a repayment of debts owed by Christians, a repayment which is at the same time to be made out of funds belonging to the Mussulman population of this province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 300.

Extract from the "Maritza" of January 5, 1880.

Ploudiv, le 5 Janvier, 1880.

C'EST Samedi dernier, $\frac{22 \text{ Décembre, } 1879}{3 \text{ Janvier, } 1880}$, qu'a eu lieu la clôture de la première Session de l'Assemblée Provinciale avec la même solemnité qu'à l'ouverture. Une compagnie d'infanterie de la Drougina, musique en tête, jouant l'hymne national, formait la haie devant la porte d'entrée de l'Assemblée. Il y avait foule dans les Tribunes. A 11 heures précises, M. le Président Guechoff, après avoir remercié par une courte allocution MM. les Députés, annonça la clôture de la Session. Des applaudissements

vifs et prolongés ont couvert la voix du Président. Après une heure d'arrêt, MM. les Directeurs et tous les Députés reprenaient précipitamment leurs places, et les hourras des soldats mêlés à l'hymne national, annonçaient l'arrivée de Son Altesse le Prince Bogoridi, accompagné de tout son Etat-Major. Son Altesse portait l'uniforme de Général. Toute l'Assemblée s'est levée, et, par des battements de mains, des hourras, et des applaudissements répétés, témoignait ses sympathies à notre Gouverneur-Général. Le discours du Prince, que nous reproduisons aujourd'hui dans nos colonnes, a été lu dans les trois langues—Bulgare, Turque, et Grecque—par M. Groueff, Directeur de l'Instruction Publique et de la Justice par intérim. Ce discours a été vivement applaudi.

Pourquoi ces manifestations de satisfaction et de joie à l'ouverture comme à la clôture de l'Assemblée Provinciale, ce qui n'est guère le cas dans d'autres pays aux mêmes occasions? C'est, tout le monde le comprend, le cri de joie du libéré qui a longtemps vécu dans un cachot et qui revoit le jour et le soleil avec les irrésistibles épanchements d'un cœur qui a longtemps souffert. En effet, après un joug odieux et séculaire, la nation Bulgare est encore en ce moment, en la personne de ses jeunes et intelligents Députés, aux premiers coups d'essai de ses ailes d'indépendance à peine naissantes, avant de prendre son essor vers un meilleur avenir. La liberté de la parole, inconnue jusqu'à ce jour pour le Chrétien dans ces contrées, a rendu cette parole inconsciemment éloquente au sein de l'Assemblée. Les questions les plus graves—questions administratives et judiciaires, questions financière et d'économie politique, celles, enfin, dont l'Europe civilisée s'occupe depuis des siècles sans les résoudre d'une façon complète—ont été abordées par des jeunes gens inexpérimentés, sans connaissances spéciales sur les matières qu'ils traitaient, mais suppléant presque à tout par un bon sens pratique, qui fait honneur à leur patriotisme; preuve éclatante que le progrès et les hommes ne pourraient voir le jour, même dans les sociétés les plus arriérées, que sous le souffle d'une liberté bien entendue. D'autre part, il faut le dire à la louange de tous, aucun oubli de convenances dans le langage à reprocher à cette Assemblée composée d'éléments si divers.

Examinons un instant ce que l'Assemblée Provinciale a pu faire dans un si bref délai de temps. Certes, elle ne pouvait approfondir en courant toutes les questions soumises à sa décision; sa tâche est loin d'être achevée; mais l'on est généralement content de ce qui a été déjà fait. Le premier pas franchi, l'on aura les coudées bien plus franches dans la prochaine Session, en y apportant plus d'expérience et une meilleure connaissance de choses.

L'Assemblée a nommé le Comité Permanent et procédé au réglement des autres questions inférieures, suivant l'esprit du Statut Organique. Elle a voté £ T. 40,000 en faveur des émigrés Musulmans et £ T. 62,000 à l'achat de bétail et autres besoins des cultivateurs nécessiteux. Elle s'est—nous ne parlons que des questions principales—essentiellement occupée du Budget, et partant, de la rédaction des traitements des fonctionnaires et de presque tous les employés civils. Enfin, elle a voté douze lois provinciales qui attendent à présent la sanction de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Nous nous permettrons d'observer à propos du Budget de l'exercice suivant, qui sera discuté dans la Session Extraordinaire autorisée par notre Gouverneur-Général, que le Gouvernement et le pays devraient espérer sur une bonne récolte de céréales, pour pouvoir faire asseoir le Budget sur des bases solides; et, en même temps, ne pas perdre de vue l'économie dans les dépenses. S'il y a eu des injustices involontaires dans la réduction des traitements, il appartient à l'initiative de notre Gouverneur-Général d'y remédier; mais, en principe, la suppression d'une foule d'employés reconnus inutiles et la réduction des appointements trop élevés alloués à tous les fonctionnaires et employés sont de sages et excellentes mesures, car des prodigalités irréfléchis mènent tout droit à la ruine.

Un mot encore avant de terminer: Nous avons relevé avec plaisir dans le discours du Prince des signes éclatants de satisfaction sur le vote par l'Assemblée de £ T. 40,000 en faveur des réfugiés Musulmans. De fait, ces sentiments d'humanité sont de nature à nous rapprocher davantage l'élément Turc, qui commence à reconnaître que nous ne cherchons nullement à le faire éloigner de ces contrées, mais l'aider à s'y installer et prospérer sous la potection et l'impartialité des lois pour tous.

No. 301.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 16.)
Philippopoli, January 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 343 of the 9th November last, on the subject of the Provincial Budget, I have the honour to inclose a statement showing the changes that have been made by the Provincial Assembly in the measures by which M. Schmidt had proposed to meet the anticipated deficit of £ T. 230,000 for the current financial period.

The principal features of the financial scheme adopted by the Assembly are:—

1. The non-issue of Treasury bonds or orders;
2. A diminution of expenditure to the extent of £ T. 20,000;
3. A large appropriation of the Mussulman Fund ("sommes conditionnelles") to the extent of £ T. 10,000;
4. The reduction of the reserve fund required by Article 68 of Appendix vii to the extent of £ T. 10,000 (leaving only £ T. 405);
5. An anticipated increase of revenue from tithes and other sources—£ T. 40,000;
6. The reduction of the amount of income tax which the Government had proposed to levy, viz., £ T. 30,000;
7. The expenditure of the specie fund, against which the Government had proposed to issue Treasury orders, leaving the specie funds as a "fonds de roulement."

These arrangements leave the Government without any capital ("fonds de roulement") in hand, but it is anticipated that the immediate reduction of the numerical strength of the militia will effect a saving of £ T. 40,000, and that further economy in the civil administration of the province will yield an additional sum of £ T. 20,000; both of which sums will, if realized, replace the specie fund, or capital, which the Assembly has determined to expend for current requirements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 301.

STATEMENT showing Financial Measures in respect to Deficit of £T. 230,000.

Proposed by M. Schmidt.	£ T.	Adopted by Assembly.	£ T.
1. Issue of Treasury bonds to cover advances to be made to peasantry	60,000	1. Diminution of expenditure	20,000
2. Issue of Treasury orders against specie fund ..	40,000	2. Diminution of reserve fund*	10,000
3. Appropriation of one-half of fund accumulated by the sale of Turkish property (cattle, &c.), collection of Turkish rent, &c. (sommes conditionnelles)	20,000	3. Appropriation of Mussulman Fund ("sommes conditionnelles") to the extent of ..	10,000
4. Imposition of a property tax	50,000	4. Balance of specie in hand	11,000
5. Imposition of an income tax	50,000	5. Anticipated increase in value of tithes ..	40,000
		6. Anticipated increase in miscellaneous receipts ..	9,000
		7. Imposition of a property tax	50,000
		8. Imposition of an income tax	30,000
Total	230,000	Total	230,000

* M. Schmidt has provided for a reserve fund of £T. 10,105, in conformity with Article 66, Appendix to Chapter VII of Organic Statute.

No. 302.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 17.)
Philippopoli, January 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 9 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that at the meeting of the Consular Body, which I had convoked in the capacity of "Doyen," it was unanimously resolved to abstain from making any representations to the Governor-General on the subject of his retention of the keys of the Greek church until his Excellency had had reasonable time to consider the course he ought to pursue in circumstances of such gravity.

Some of my colleagues thought the Government had acted in a justifiable manner in placing a seal on the church door and in taking away the keys, provided the

object of those measures had been to prevent a serious breach of public order and tranquillity.

The Consular Body was, however, strongly of opinion that the retention of the keys would not be justifiable beyond a certain period; and it was agreed that a meeting should be held again at 5 P.M., in order to consider the steps that should be collectively taken in the event of the church not having been surrendered in the interval to the Greek community. The Consular Body was also of opinion that by delaying the surrender of the church the Government would either identify itself with the act of violence which had been committed or prove its inability to maintain order with the means at its command.

I had already held language to the same effect to General Streeker, and had induced him to proceed to the konak, in order to urge upon the Governor-General the necessity of an immediate surrender of the church to the Greeks.

In reply to my question, General Streeker had stated that his ability to maintain order would depend upon the "mot d'ordre" given to the Bulgarians; and I understood that such a "mot d'ordre" would, in the opinion of the General, influence the conduct, both of the Bulgarian militia and the Bulgarian mob.

General Streeker, therefore, passed some hours at the konak in endeavouring to persuade the Governor-General to give up the church; but although his Excellency yielded at one time to the arguments used by the General, yet he ultimately refused, on the advice of M. Crestovitch and M. Gruef, to adopt the course on which General Streeker had insisted with some vehemence.

Aleko Pasha finally elected to accede to the wishes of a Bulgarian deputation which had asked his Excellency to retain the keys of the church pending the settlement of the dispute as to the proprietory rights of the Greeks or Bulgarians by a local Tribunal.

It was therefore with considerable satisfaction and relief that I received yesterday, shortly after noon, the visit of the Bulgarian Exarch and his Metropolitan, Panaretos, who, while explaining and endeavouring to extenuate the circumstances under which the Church had been seized, informed me that the Governor-General had determined to surrender the keys to the Greek Archbishop.

The Exarch assured me that the act of violence had been committed without the knowledge or co-operation of Bulgarian political leaders; and that it had been the spontaneous impulse of certain Bulgarians of the lower orders, resident in the vicinity of the church, who had long felt the hardship of being deprived of an edifice which had been built by subscription among the Bulgarian community, for their special use and benefit.

His Beatitude entered into a long explanation of the circumstances on which the Bulgarian claim to the ownership of the Church of St. Paraskevi is based, but I need not, on the present occasion, trouble your Lordship with a recital of the statements made to me under this head by the Exarch and the Metropolitan, since His Beatitude has at my request undertaken to draw up a memorandum in the French language in elucidation of the Bulgarian claim.

I need only further mention to your Lordship that the principal arguments used by the two prelates in extenuation of the conduct of the persons who had seized the church were, that many other sacred edifices had changed hands in a similar manner under the Turkish régime, and that the Bulgarians had recently been dispossessed of a church at Adrianople by "arbitrary means."

After giving me these explanations, the Exarch stated that the next object of his visit was to obtain my support in the vindication of the legal rights of the Bulgarian community to a church which the intervention of the Consular Body had alone prevented from remaining for ever in the hands of its rightful owners; and when His Beatitude made this admission, I discovered that he was perfectly acquainted with the views which had been adopted by the Consular Body at the midnight meeting held at this Consulate-General.

I may here appropriately state that the Russian Acting Consul-General had entirely shared the views of his colleagues as to the illegality and the regrettable character of the Bulgarian proceedings in this matter.

Having been aroused by General Streeker on the night of the incident, M. Isvolski had sent for M. Gueshoff (the President of the Assembly), and other Notables, and had expressed to them in strong terms his condemnation of the act which had just been committed, and his apprehensions as to its possible political results.

M. Isvolski has also assured me that the leaders whom he had thus summoned had expressed, in reply to his remonstrances, their entire ignorance of the plot under which

the church had been seized, and their deep regret at the perpetration of such an act of violence.

Assurances to a similar effect were given to me by the editor of the "Narodni Glas," the Bulgarian radical organ in this town, who called upon me shortly before the visit of the Exarch and Metropolitan, in order to give me such assurances, and at the same time, in order to obtain permission to state to the "Bulgarian people," for the purpose of pacifying them, that I sympathized with their desire to obtain possession of the Church of St. Paraskevi, the retention of which, he said, I had prevented by convoking a meeting of the Consular Body.

As regards these particular assurances, I can only state that on the day before the seizure of the church, the "Narodni Glas" had published a leading article directing attention to the transfer of a "Bulgarian church" to the Greek community at Adrianople, as well as to the moral and legal claims of the Bulgarians to the Church of St. Paraskevi, and to sundry other churches held by the Greeks in this province.

In replying to the Exarch and to the editor of the radical organ (whose acquaintance I made on this occasion), I expressed my entire ignorance of the merits of the rival claims to the possession of the Church of St. Paraskevi. I only knew that a flagrant and serious breach of law had been committed by the stealthy and forcible seizure of a church held by another religious community. Such an act, if left without redress and punishment, would give insecurity to every species of property, and it was therefore the duty and the interest of all those who desired to enjoy the benefits of public order and tranquillity, under the laws and the privileges which had been given to the province, to insist upon the restoration of the church to its *de facto* owners.

It was impossible, I pointed out, to claim at one and the same time the benefits of a past Turkish régime with those of a European political system recently acquired, and which might indeed be placed in jeopardy by a course of persistent lawlessness and a continued disregard of the rights and interests of other races.

I also pointed out that the action of the Consular Corps, in the matter of this incident, proved abundantly the unanimity with which the Great Powers were determined to maintain law and order in Eastern Roumelia, and I more especially drew the attention of the radical editor to the significance of that action, as he had taken some pains to enlist my sympathy and support by repudiating, on behalf of his fellow-countrymen, any intention of throwing themselves in the arms of Russia.

As regards my personal and official sympathies, I told all my interlocutors that my sympathies could only be given to those who obeyed and observed the law, and that I should fail in my duty if I showed a preference for any one of the races by which the province was inhabited.

To the Exarch I replied that I should certainly not endeavour to prevent the Governor-General from referring the question in dispute to a Tribunal, according to the desire which His Beatitude had expressed. His Excellency, I said, must act in such a matter on his own responsibility, towards the Porte and the other Powers which had endowed the province with an Organic Statute, the provisions of which the Governor-General would be compelled to consult and obey.

Both the Bulgarian Prelates having also expressed a desire that the question in dispute should be settled by a Consular Commission in the event of the local Tribunals being incompetent to try it, I observed that, except in the event of receiving special instructions from my Government, I could not entertain the idea of the appointment of a Consular Commission, as such an interference with the ordinary course of law and justice would, in my personal opinion, be inconsistent with the autonomy under which the province had been created.

I suggested, in conclusion, that instead of coveting their neighbours' churches, and endeavouring to obtain possession of them by the aid of Tribunals, in which the Greeks would naturally have little confidence, the Bulgarians would create a favourable impression in Europe by erecting a cathedral of their own by public subscription, after the manner of their less opulent forefathers, who, it was now alleged, had by such means erected the Church of St. Paraskevi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 303.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 9, 1880.

THE "Philippoupolis" has reproduced in the French language from the Bulgarian portion of the "Maritza," a letter dated from Slivno, and in which a virulent attack is made on the Greek inhabitants of this province.

Notwithstanding the inordinate length of the inclosed extract, I think it right to bring it to the notice of your Lordship as a specimen of the violent anti-Greek feeling that exists among the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, and which I am sorry to say is fully reciprocated towards the Bulgarians by their Greek fellow-citizens.

The writer of the letter recommends that the Bulgarians should abstain from buying anything from, or selling anything to, the Greeks, in order to ruin the commercial prosperity of the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 304.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 9, 1880.

IN conformity with the financial measures voted by the Provincial Assembly, the effective strength of the local militia is to be reduced to about 3,200 men.

General Streeker has not, however, yet received official communication of this resolution, nor is he yet in possession of the final scheme for the administrative subdivision of the several departments, without which he is not in a position to establish his recruiting and reserve centres.

Notwithstanding also General Streeker's many appeals to the Governor-General, the "Registres Matricules," which his Excellency was bound to introduce under Article 370 of the Organic Statute immediately after his installation, have not yet been established.

The local militia will therefore continue to be purely Bulgarian for some time longer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 305.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, a leading article published yesterday in the "Maritza," explaining and extenuating the circumstances under which the Church of St. Paraskevi had been seized by a Bulgarian mob on the 6th instant.

It is an entire misrepresentation to say that "the parishioners of that church, nearly all Bulgarians, flocked to it in order to assist, after an interval of twenty-five years, at the celebration of mass in their own tongue."

They flocked to the church by a movement preconcerted with the militia, in order to take forcible possession of the church, and to instal a Bulgarian priest who would not have dared to officiate with the assistance of a choir, unless he had been specially authorized and indicted by his Metropolitan, Panarétos, who must therefore have been one of the principal instigators of the plot.

There is also much false reasoning as to the circumstances under which the Greek community has retained possession of a great number of churches, notwithstanding the superior numerical strength of the Bulgarian element of the population.

When the Metropolitan and the Exarch advanced the same argument in the conversation which I have already reported to your Lordship, I pointed out to them that persons who seceded from an established Church for the purpose of gaining

certain advantages, had scarcely the right to seek to deprive those who had remained faithful to the mother Church of endowments which had originally been created under the Patriarchate.

That such, however, is now evidently the object, is clear from that part of the inclosed article which solicits "the energetic intervention of the Government and justice from the Tribunals, not only in respect to the Church of St. Paraskevi, but also for the legal restitution to the Bulgarian community of all churches, convents, and other ecclesiastical property which the Greeks are at present arbitrarily withholding from that community."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 306.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January 17, 1880.*

THE attention of General Streckeer having been drawn to the inclosed notice published in the "Maritza" of the 13th instant, and which announced that a ball would be given at the Local Club "on the occasion of the anniversary of the taking of Philippopoli by the victorious Russian armies . . . . . ," his Excellency summoned a meeting of the Club Committee, over which he presides, and after expressing his surprise and indignation at the publication of such a notice, insisted upon its immediate repudiation in the press.

It appears, from the terms of the notice which was thereupon issued by the Club Committee, that the previous notice had been given in error, and without the knowledge of the Committee.

Your Excellency will perceive, however, from the inclosed extract from the "Philippoupolis," that the original notice had been issued in the name of the Club Committee by the Secretary of the Club, who holds the position of Bailli of Philippopoli.

Having thus failed in their attempt to celebrate at the Club the anniversary of the defeat of the troops of the territorial Sovereign, the organizers of the demonstration issued a placard to the effect that the ball would be held in the Bulgarian school-room.

It being meanwhile apparent that certain Russian and Bulgarian officers of the local militia are taking part in the organization of the demonstration, General Streeker issued an Order of the Day of which I have the honour to inclose a translation. In that Order the General has opportunely reminded the officers of the militia and gendarmerie that it is their duty to forget the events of the late war, and that they "serve a province of which His Majesty the Sultan is the Sovereign."

His Excellency further prohibits the officers from taking part in the contemplated demonstration, and renders the Inspection of the Gendarmerie and the Commanding Officers responsible for the strict execution of his Order, and for its communication to all the officers of the local forces.

Notwithstanding the excitement to which this Order of the Day gave rise, not a single officer of the militia or the gendarmerie ventured to disobey it. The only uniforms that were seen at the ball were those of two officers from the neighbouring Principality who happened to be at Philippopoli on leave of absence.

I regret, however, to state that the Governor-General was not equally successful in controlling entirely the disloyal impulses of the provincial civil servants.

At a meeting of the Privy Council Aleko Pasha, in imitation of General Streeker, gave orders to the effect that no civil officer should take part in the demonstration, but the ball was nevertheless attended by the entire Bulgarian *personnel* of the Direction of Finance—an office which was closed on the 16th instant by the order of M. Kaltchoff, who had remained in charge of the Finance Department during the absence of M. Schmidt.

M. Kaltchoff is well known as one of the most active members of the Secret Committee which has so persistently opposed the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin in this province, and I have reason to believe that he continues to be the Treasurer of that Organization.

I may add, however, that the ball was chiefly attended by the lower classes, and

that, in addition to M. Kaltchoff, the only Notables present were M. Gueshoff, President of the Assembly, M. Kessinkoff, Deputy for Philippopoli, and M. T. Gueshoff, also a Member of the Provincial Assembly.

On the morning of the 16th, during the celebration of a *Te Deum* in the Bulgarian Church, in celebration of the "Anniversary," most of the Bulgarian and Greek shops were kept closed.

It has been established that they had been closed by the orders of the police, although both the Prefect and the Sub-Prefect have denied to Aleko Pasha that any orders to that effect had been issued by the Prefecture.

The significance of the contemplated demonstration and the opportuneness of recalling the officers of the local militia and gendarmerie to a sense of their duty towards the territorial Sovereign are amply proved by the appearance of an article in the local Radical Bulgarian organ, of which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation.

I need only attract the attention of your Lordship to paragraphs in that article which state that the order of General Streeker is an act which "infinitely discourages" the Radical party, that the repetition of such orders on a large scale are calculated to have a "fatal influence over the army" and be productive of evil in the future, and that it will depend upon the "Secondary Chiefs" of that army to preserve the province from such evil.

It is scarcely necessary for me to mention that the great evil in view is the exact observance of the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, under which this province has been constituted into an Eastern Roumelia, and under which the Great Powers of Europe intended that the Turkish and Greek inhabitants of the province should enjoy the same rights and privileges and the same security as the Bulgarian race.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No 306.

Extract from the "Maritza" of January $\frac{1}{13}$, 1880.

AVIS.

A L'OCCASION de l'anniversaire de la prise de Philippopoli par les armées victorieuses Russes, Vendredi soir, $\frac{4}{16}$ Janvier, 1880, un bal aura lieu dans le local du Cercle de Philippopoli.

Prix d'entrée, 1 rouble.

En publiant cet avis nous sommes certains d'avance du brillant succès qu'aura cette fête, donnée en l'honneur du mémorable événement qui a comblé de bienfaits notre pays.

Inclosure 2 in No. 306.

Extracts from the "Philippoupolis" of January $\frac{4}{16}$, 1880.

AVIS.

LA Direction du Cercle de Philippopoli a l'honneur d'informer le public que l'avis annonçant un bal pour le $\frac{4}{16}$ Janvier dans le local du dit Cercle et publié par les journaux de la ville est erroné, ayant paru sans la connaissance de la Direction.

Au Cercle il n'y aura bal que Dimanche soir, $\frac{9}{21}$ Janvier, comme à l'ordinaire.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{3}{15}$ Janvier, 1880.

M. Wlassakoff, Bailli de Philippopoli, Secrétaire du Cercle de notre ville, nous adresse l'avis suivant avec prière d'insertion :—

"Avis.

"A l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la prise de Philippopoli par les armées victorieuses Russes, le Vendredi soir, $\frac{4}{16}$ Janvier, 1880, un bal aura lieu dans le local du Cercle de Philippopoli.

"Prix d'entrée, 1 rouble.

"En publiant cet avis nous sommes certains d'avance du brillant succès qu'aura cette fête, donnée en l'honneur du mémorable événement qui a comblé de bienfaits notre pays.

"Le Comité du Cercle de Philippopoli."

Inclosure 3 in No. 306.

Ordre du Jour.

AYANT appris qu'un bal sera donné le 4 Janvier dans le but ostensible de la mémoire des événements de la dernière guerre, je rappelle à MM. les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie qu'il est de notre devoir de faire oublier la dernière guerre et que nous servons dans une province dont le Souverain est Sa Majesté le Sultan, J'ordonne donc que pas un ne prenne part à cette démonstration.

Je rends MM. les Commandants des Droujines et l'Inspection de la Gendarmerie responsables de ce que cet Ordre soit communiqué immédiatement à tous les officiers.

(Signé) STRECKER.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Janvier, 1880.

No. 307.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two somewhat conflicting accounts of the circumstances under which the Church of St. Peraskevi was seized by a Bulgarian mob on Christmas night (o.s.).

I have no hesitation, however, in stating that the account given in the "Philippopolis" coincides in every important particular with the information which I have collected from perfectly reliable sources, and that the version given in the "Maritza" can only be accepted as a further specimen of the manner in which the Bulgarian organ (of which the French portion is edited at the konak), almost invariably suppresses or circumvents the truth whenever the Government or the Bulgarian party by themselves open to blame.

Your Lordship will find a confirmation of this opinion in the terms in which the "Maritza" represents the action of the Governor-General after the seizure of the church. That journal likewise gives prominence to an incident which had in reality no significance whatever.

A Greek, in a state of inebriation, fired upon a gendarme who had attempted to interfere with him. The rest of the Greeks present took no part in the affray which ensued between the man who fired the pistol and the posse of gendarmerie by which he was ultimately secured and severely beaten.

As regards the participation of the militia, I can only repeat that the latter took possession of the church together with the Bulgarian mob, and that no Bulgarian, either civil or military, had been in the habit of frequenting the church before.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 308.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 17, 1880.

HAVING seen in the "Maritza" the notice which forms the subject of my despatch No. 25 of this date, I called upon General Strecker, and asked him to explain, both in his capacity of President of the Local Club, and as a General in the Turkish service, the circumstances under which he had allowed the Club to be used for the purposes of a disloyal demonstration.

The General assured me that he had not authorized the publication of the notice in question, and that the club-rooms had merely been let for the purposes of the ball.

I replied that even in the latter case I had a right to protest against such use of a club, to which, like several other foreigners, and like the leading members of the Greek community, I belonged; and I called upon him to take such steps as he might see fit to prevent the ball from being held at the Club, and thus to avoid the difficulties which my resignation and that of most of the foreign Greek members of the Club would inevitably give rise.

General Strecker, therefore, called a meeting of the Club Committee, which decided the same evening, after some discussion, that the ball should not be held at the Club-house, and that all knowledge of the notice should be repudiated.

The majority of the Committee is composed of Russian officers of superior rank, who, I have much pleasure in stating, acquiesced in the necessity of such a course.

Finding, however, next day that placards had been posted all over the town to the effect that the same ball would be given in the Bulgarian school-room, and knowing that the celebration of the anniversary of the defeat of the Turkish troops at Philippopoli was a demonstration which had long been prepared with the active co-operation of certain Russian and Bulgarian officers of the local militia and gendarmerie, I called again upon General Strecker, and asked him, for the purposes of the report which it would be my duty to make to Her Majesty's Government, what steps he had taken to prevent the officers under his command from taking a part in a demonstration which was simply a manifestation of disrespect and disloyalty towards the territorial Sovereign.

I pointed out to the General the importance of divesting himself of all responsibility in so grave a matter, his name being already connected with the previous proceedings of the Club Committee. I also told him that the Emperor of Russia, to whom the conduct of the Russian officers in this province would certainly be represented if they persisted in disavowing in a public manner the allegiance which they temporarily owed to the Sultan, would be the first to mark such conduct with severe reprehension.

The General had apparently not considered the question from this point of view, but almost immediately acknowledged its correctness. He observed, however, as on many previous occasions, that he was surrounded with almost insurmountable difficulties, owing chiefly to the composition of the force under his command, and to the character of the officers that had been attached to it.

I argued that those difficulties would remain insurmountable so long as he hesitated to impress upon his officers a proper sense of their position in this province, and of the duties which, under the authority of the Sultan, they had been called upon to perform.

I also repeated what I had frequently urged before, namely, that he was wrong in pursuing a policy of "conciliation" and "temporization."

Officers of the character of those with whom he had to deal, and taking, moreover, into consideration that they belonged to the Slav race, would only regard such a policy as an evidence of weakness favourable to objects which they were meanwhile pursuing unchecked with the utmost steadiness and consistency.

I added, in the most emphatic manner, that, in my opinion, the time had arrived when it was absolutely necessary that the General should make those officers feel his determination to maintain order and discipline, and to prohibit their participation in the Pan-Bulgarian conspiracy against the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute.

I have the greatest satisfaction in reporting to your Lordship that General

Streeker finally acquiesced in the views I had thus expressed, and I left his Excellency with the assurance that he would immediately publish an Order of the Day prohibiting his officers from taking part in the projected demonstration.

I have, further, much pleasure in stating that the success of the firm attitude thus assumed by General Streeker has exceeded his expectations. All the German and French officers, as well as the superior Russian officers of the militia and gendarmerie, recognize both the right and the duty of the General in the course which he has taken, and the particulars of which are given in my despatch above mentioned. Not a single local officer disobeyed the Order which the General had issued, although most of the officers are annoyed at the form in which the Order was conveyed.

The allusion to the sovereignty of the Sultan has been most distasteful to them, but I am convinced that it will have the effect of sobering their minds, and of instilling into them a more correct appreciation of their position, and of the consequences by which any further political manifestation on their part might be visited.

The Governor-General, after a little hesitation as to the expediency of giving a written, instead of a verbal order, entirely approved of the step which General Streeker had taken, and expressed, at a Privy Council, his own firm determination to uphold the rights and the dignity of his august Master, the Sultan, in this province.

I cannot conclude this despatch without likewise bringing to the notice of your Lordship that the Russian Acting Consul-General, after learning the steps which General Streeker had taken, both at the Club and by the issue of an Order of the Day, did his utmost to dissuade the Russian officers and the leading Pan-Bulgarians from making the contemplated demonstration. He is reported to have said that Russia had no need of such demonstrations, and that they were quite out of place in this province.

He also refused to receive a deputation which waited upon him with felicitations after the celebration of the *Te Deum* at the Bulgarian Church.

The Bulgarians are somewhat surprised at the attitude which M. Sevolski assumed on this occasion, and they are, to say the least, considerably crest-fallen, notwithstanding the violent article in the "Narodni Glas," in which one of the leading agitators, M. Kalchoff, has attempted to vindicate the right of the "Bulgarian nation" to celebrate the anniversary of a Russian victory.

General Streeker has brought that article officially to the notice of the Governor-General, and has thrown upon his Excellency all the responsibility which will attach to the non-punishment of those who seek openly in the press to undermine still further the discipline and loyalty of the incongruous force under his command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 309.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 11, 1880.

THE Austrian Agent, Count Khevenhüller, informed me yesterday that he had received a despatch from his Government, stating that they had carefully examined the reasons given by the Bulgarian Government for refusing to allow the further return of the Mussulman refugees; but that, while fully admitting the validity of these reasons up to a certain point, they could not allow that any Government had a right to forbid to emigrants the return to their own country, and added that the Bulgarian Government, if they persisted in their refusal, would awaken suspicions in Europe as to the sincerity of their declarations with regard to the treatment of the Mussulmans.

Count Khevenhüller is, therefore, instructed to recommend to the Bulgarian Government that they should send a Commissioner to that part of the frontier where the emigrants are collected, who should be directed to confer with a Commissioner, whose nomination by the Porte the Austrian Government is simultaneously recommending through their Embassy at Constantinople, as to the best means of alleviating the present distress, and providing for the reinstalment of the refugees in their villages.

Count Khevenhüller intends to make this communication verbally to M. Natchovitz as soon as he has an opportunity of seeing his Excellency, and has promised to let me know when he has done so, in order that I may make a similar representation as instructed by your Lordship's telegram of the 25th ultimo.

As some delay may not impossibly occur both on the part of the Ottoman and Bulgarian Governments in naming their Commissioners and in making the necessary preliminary inquiries, it is to be hoped that the worst part of the winter will be over before these unfortunate people set out on their journey through an impoverished country to return to their ruined homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 310.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 6. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 11, 1880.

COUNT KHEVENHÜLLER, in speaking to me yesterday of the financial difficulties of Bulgaria, told me that he had heard that the Russian Government had begun to press for the payment of the 32,000,000 fr. owing by the Principality for the maintenance of the Russian troops during their nine months' occupation, but that he had gathered from admissions made to him by M. Natchovitz that it had been lately settled with the Russian Agent, that Russia would not at present ask for payment of the interest on the debt, but would maintain her right, as an interested party, to a voice in the settlement of all matters connected with Bulgarian finance. He fears that in the exercise of this right Russia will put forward a prior claim whenever it suits her purpose, and will do all in her power to prevent the payment of the tribute to the Porte, and the fulfilment of the engagements entered into by Bulgaria for the completion of the railways.

Count Khevenhüller said that I was quite at liberty to communicate to your Lordship what he had heard from M. Natchovitz, but that he hoped that it would be considered as confidential.

The financial condition of Bulgaria is certainly far from encouraging. Besides her debt with Russia and her tribute to the Sultan, she has the demolition of the fortresses, the completion of the railways, her share of the Turkish debt, and the obligations towards the Varna Railway Company. The revenue for the past year barely exceeded 19,000,000 fr., and under the most favourable circumstances is not likely to reach 25,000,000 fr., of which 10,000,000 fr., to be increased hereafter to 12,000,000 fr., are absorbed by the army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 311.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Brophy, stating that he has laid before the Governor of Varna the grievances complained of by the Mussulmans of that district, as directed by Mr. Palgrave on the 17th November last, but that hitherto the Governor has evaded giving any reply.

I shall not fail to bring this conduct to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, December* 29, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that immediately upon the receipt of Mr. Consul-General Palgrave's despatch of the 17th November, 1879, instructing me to lay before the Governor of Varna the grievances complained of by Mahommedans of this district in their petition presented at this office the 21st September, and to request that a close investigation should be made into the truth of these statements, I had an interview with the Governor, and pointed out how desirable it was to adduce, if possible, proofs of the falsity or exaggeration of the allegations in question, which as long as not clearly shown to be untrue would continue to obtain credence.

The Governor then promised that the facts should be closely gone into, and that he would shortly communicate the result.

Three weeks elapsing without any reply, I again saw the Governor on the same subject, when he said he had appointed some one to extract the particulars from the official documents, but that the task was not quite completed. The third time I went to the Governor he said that they had such a press of work that he had been obliged to interrupt the process of investigation.

From the above it would appear that the local authorities, not finding it easy to disprove the complaints brought forward by the Mussulman population, judge it better to remain silent on the subject, trusting that it will sink into oblivion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 312.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 15, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the reply of M. Natchovitz to my note of the 25th December, requesting to be informed how the Protocols and charts of the Bulgarian Frontier Delimitation Commission had reached the Bulgarian Government.

Your Lordship will observe that M. Natchovitz now states that they were given by Colonel Schepelew, and not by Colonel Zelenoi as at first asserted.

As I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 228, Confidential, of the 2nd ultimo, Colonel Schepelew's ostensible mission here is the winding up of the affairs of the Russian army, but it is generally supposed that he is employed to watch the Prince and to play the part of the unofficial Russian Representative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 312.

M. Natchovitz to Mr. Ashburnham.

M. le Gérant, *Sophia, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

EN réponse à votre office en date du 25 Décembre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que les Protocoles et les cartes des Commissions chargés de la délimitation de la frontière de la Principauté, à l'exception de ceux de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, sont envoyés au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères par M. le Colonel Schepelow.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) G. D. NATCHOVITZ.

No. 313.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 83. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1880.

M. BRATIANO, the Roumanian Minister at the Porte, called upon me to-day, on his return to his post, after a long leave of absence. He spoke very despondently

with regard to the future of the Principality. He said that he was convinced that Prince Bismarck, for some reason or another, was determined that "it should disappear," and that his policy and intrigues with respect to it had that object. It was not clear, he went on to say, whether the Prince wished Roumania to be annexed to Austria or to Russia, but he was convinced that it was his Highness' intention that its independence should cease, and that it was not improbable that before a year and a-half were over he would carry that intention out.

M. Bratiano referred very disparagingly to the new Principality of Bulgaria; he denounced the Bulgarians as "ferocious (*des bêtes féroces*), ignorant, and greedy," and declared that their condition was already one of general anarchy, brought about by "Reds" and other revolutionists. The prospects of the Principality, he said, added to the danger of a general *bouleversement* in the East of Europe, which he considered inevitable before very long.

As M. Bratiano appeared to be altogether in a very unhappy humour, there may have been a good deal of exageration in his language; nevertheless, I have considered it my duty to report it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 314.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 87.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the notes which have been exchanged between my Italian colleague and the Porte, relating to the boarding of an Italian steamer by the Minister of Police and other officers, with a force of zaptiehs, which I reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 22 of the 14th instant. I am indebted to Count Corti for them. He informs me that the Colonel of the gendarmerie was not expelled by force from the vessel, but that, as when requested to leave, he referred to his orders to remain, the Italian Consul merely took him by the arm and led him to the ladder. He took the hint and went away.

The statement of Hafiz Pasha that he simply went on board to see Hassan Pasha (after he had surrounded the vessel with armed men-of-war's boats), and that the officers and men of the police who accompanied him were simple visitors, like a number of other persons, who are in the habit of going on board ships on their arrival, is a charming bit of humorous effrontery which has rarely been surpassed even by the Porte.

When I pointed out to Sawas Pasha that the fact of the Sultan having conferred the Grand Cordon of the Medjidié upon Hafiz Pasha immediately after the settlement of the Koelle affair, was calculated to make a very unfavourable impression upon Her Majesty's Government, his Excellency replied that this distinction had been given to him for his exertions in preventing the landing of the Prince, forgetting, I have no doubt quite unintentionally, that it had been bestowed upon him by His Majesty a day before the arrival of the steamer on which his Highness reached Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Count Corti to Sawas Pasha.

Le 13 *Janvier*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur les faits suivants :—

Aussitôt que le paquebot Italien de la Compagnie Florio, provenant de Brindisi, arriva hier dans ce port, M. le Ministre de la Police se rendit à bord, avec le Capitaine du Port, et plusieurs zaptiehs. Il demande au Commandant s'il y avait un Prince à bord. S'étant ensuite présenté à son Altesse Hassan Pacha, il lui signifia qu'il ne lui était pas permis de descendre à terre, mais qu'un bâtiment de guerre Turc était prêt pour le recevoir. Son Altesse répondit qu'elle resterait à bord du bâtiment Italien. Le Ministre de la Police quitte alors le bateau en y laissant un officier, ainsi que les zaptiehs pour garder le Prince. Le Consul-Général du Roi ayant été informé de ce

qui venait de se passer, se rendit immédiatement à bord, accompagné du Commandant du stationnaire Italien, et invita le Colonel à se retirer avec ses soldats. Au premier moment le Colonel s'y refusa, alléguant sa consigne. Mais heureusement il finit par céder aux sommations du Consul, et quitta le bateau avec les zaptiehs. Le soir son Altesse le Prince, par suite de communications reçues dans l'intervalle, quitta spontanément le bateau pour se rendre à terre.

Votre Excellence comprendra aisément la gravité des faits susdits. Tant que le Prince se trouvait à bord du paquebot Italien il demeurait sous la sauvegarde du pavillon national. Aucun acte de violence contre sa personne n'aurait été permis. L'intervention du Ministre de la Police, accompagné d'une force armée, constituait donc une violation flagrante du droit des gens.

C'est pourquoi je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien me fournir à ce sujet des explications aptes à dissiper la pénible surprise qui m'a été causée par un fait si peu en harmonie avec les bonnes relations qui existent entre les deux Etats, et de donner une satisfaction équitable pour ce qui est advenue.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Sawas Pasha to Count Corti.

Sublime Porte, le 13 Janvier, 1880.

M. l'Envoyé,

J'AI reçu, et lu avec la plus grande attention, la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date d'aujourd'hui.

Je m'empresse d'exprimer à votre Excellence mes plus vifs regrets pour la pénible surprise que son Excellence le Ministre de la Police a faite à son Altesse le Prince Hassan, à bord du bateau à vapeur de la Compagnie Florio, arrivé hier dans ce port.

Son Excellence Hafiz Pacha déclare avoir été à bord du dit paquebot en simple particulier pour voir le Prince Hassan, et lui faire une communication confidentielle, et que les officiers qui avaient été laissés à bord n'étaient pas destinés à y demeurer en violation des droits que couvrait le pavillon Italien, mais comme de simples visiteurs se trouvant à bord en la même qualité qu'une foule de visiteurs qui ont l'habitude de s'y rendre à l'arrivée des différents bateaux. La preuve en est qu'ils se sont retirés aussitôt que le Consul de Sa Majesté le Roi leur a déclaré qu'il attribuait à leur présence un caractère officiel.

Par ce qui précède, votre Excellence voudra bien constater qu'il ne s'est agi dans cette circonstance que d'un simple malentendu, ou tout au plus, une erreur de forme, nullement intentionnelle. Je prie votre Excellence de croire qu'il n'a point été dans les intentions du Ministre de la Police de commettre un acte de violation du droit des gens, et moins encore une offense au pavillon de l'une des Grandes Puissances.

Quoi qu'il en soit, je tiens à exprimer à ce propos mes plus vifs regrets, et la prie d'en prendre acte ainsi que de l'assurance du respect que les autorités Ottomanes n'ont jamais cessé de professer pour les prescriptions du droit des gens, et pour les rapports intimes si heureusement existant entre l'Italie et la Turquie. Je ne doute nullement que votre Excellence, prenant en considération le contenu de la présente, ne se déclare entièrement satisfaite.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) SAWAS.

No. 315.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 88.) *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880.

My Lord,

THERE being some doubt as to whether Hafiz Pasha, the present Minister of Police, is the same person who was denounced by Lord Derby, with Shevket Pasha, for his share in the "Bulgarian atrocities," and the Porte attempting to deny the fact, I have caused inquiries to be made on the subject, and have convinced myself that he is the same man.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 316.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 89. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880.

MY French and Italian colleagues express great suspicion with regard to the designs of Austria; they seem to be convinced that if the question of Gusinjé is not settled before the spring, the state of things in Albania and Montenegro will be such as to call for her interference, and that she will take advantage of it to occupy the former, and even Macedonia. A general break-up of the Turkish Empire in Europe would, they believe, be the consequence. Count Corti told me that he has warned the Porte of the danger, and impressed upon it the importance of making every reasonable sacrifice to come to an arrangement with Montenegro, in order that it may unite with the Principality to oppose the advance of Austria. M. Fournier rarely loses an occasion to express his suspicions and jealousy of the proceedings of Austria, and expresses much uneasiness at the declaration recently made by Count Andrassy, which he considers as showing an intention on her part of availing herself of the first occasion to annex a further part of Turkey.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 317.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 90.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880.

I BEG to inclose a translation from a further article published in the "Terdjiman Hakikat," conceived in a very hostile spirit against England. I would draw your Lordship's special attention to its concluding paragraphs. Such articles would deserve little notice if they were not known to be "inspired" from, if not actually written in, the Palace, and to represent the views and opinions of the reactionary and anti-English party which is now supreme there. I am informed, on unquestionable authority, that orders have been sent to the Turkish and other newspapers not to answer these articles, or to defend or explain in any way the policy and conduct of England. Said Pasha (the Prime Minister) and Sawas Pasha constantly express to me the greatest regret that such attacks upon a friendly Power are permitted, and especially that a personal attack upon myself should have been passed over without any notice on the part of the Bureau de la Presse, which is in the habit of warning and suppressing newspapers for publishing the most trivial matter unpalatable to the authorities. They declare that they see the danger of allowing such articles to be accepted as expressing the views of the Palace and of the Sultan, and assure me that they have done their utmost to check them, but find that there is a higher authority with which they are unable to contend. One cannot, however, always have complete trust in the good faith of Turkish Ministers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 318.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 92.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the 9th Protocol of the proceedings of the Commissioners for the settlement of the Turco-Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 318.

Protocole No. 9.—Séance du $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, 1879.

Présents :

Pour la Turquie—
Son Altesse Safvet Pacha,
Son Excellence Sawas Pacha,
Son Excellence Ali Saïb Pacha.

Pour la Grèce—
Son Excellence M. A. G. Coundouriotis.
Son Excellence M. Bräilas Arméni.
Son Excellence M. Pano Colocotroni.

LA séance, qui devait avoir lieu le Mercredi, $\frac{24 \text{ Octobre}}{5 \text{ Novembre}}$, a été tenue ce jourd'hui, Lundi, à 1 heure après-midi.

Le Protocole No. 8 est lu et approuvé.

Son Excellence M. Bräilas, prenant la parole, rappelle que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont, dans la dernière séance, lu et remis un Mémoire par lequel ils ont proposé une ligne qui, d'après les vues du Gouvernement Royal, pourrait servir de base à une discussion sur la frontière à adopter suivant les indications du Protocole 13.

Comme dans ce Mémoire les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes se sont bornés à indiquer seulement les points principaux de la ligne et quelques raisons générales qui la justifient, ils ont cru qu'il était de leur devoir d'y revenir, ainsi qu'ils l'ont annoncé dans une séance précédente, pour exposer en détail les raisons qui militent en faveur de son adoption, afin que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans puissent apprécier ces raisons à leur juste valeur. Le Mémoire que je vais avoir l'honneur de vous lire, ajoute son Excellence, répond aussi à quelques remarques contenues dans le Mémoire de MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans touchant les populations de l'Epire et de la Thessalie.

Son Excellence M. Bräilas donne ensuite lecture du document ci-après :

"Dans le Mémoire que nous avons eu l'honneur de soumettre à MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, nous avons indiqué les points principaux de la ligne que nous proposons et nous avons exposé très-sommairement les raisons générales qui justifient cette ligne.

"Nous allons maintenant entrer dans quelques détails.

"Nous n'avons pas besoin de prouver que la ligne du thalweg est sous tous les rapports inacceptable.

"Cette ligne n'est admise que lorsqu'il s'agit de grands fleuves et dans des cas exceptionnels; elle n'a pas été indiquée au Protocole, qui ne parle que de vallées; elle présenterait encore plus d'inconvénients que la frontière actuelle; elle donnerait lieu à la plupart des difficultés qui ont été indiquées dans le Mémoire Ottoman et qu'il faut soigneusement éviter.

"Cette ligne écartée, il ne reste qu'à tracer la nouvelle frontière sur les sommités qui bordent les deux vallées.

"Or, on n'a qu'à jeter les yeux sur la carte pour voir les inconvénients que présenterait une frontière tracée sur les sommités du côté sud. Les affluents du Pénée du côté méridional qui, avec leurs embranchements, sont très-nombreux, les rivières qui se jettent dans le golfe de Preveza et dans la Mer Ionienne au sud du Calamas, et plusieurs passes des monts que cette ligne devrait traverser, tout ceci fait voir qu'elle serait coupée dans des points infinis, elle ne serait pas continue, elle ne serait pas sûre, elle ne serait ni une ligne d'observation, ni une ligne de défense pour les deux pays.

"Il faut donc de toute nécessité tracer la nouvelle frontière sur les sommités du côté nord; mais, en la traçant, il ne faut pas perdre de vue les principes admis en pareille matière.

"Ces principes ont été suggérés par la nature.

"Les lignes formées par la crête des montagnes et par le partage des eaux sont, d'après l'opinion des hommes les plus compétents, toujours les meilleures; elles sont faciles à retrouver, elles offrent une démarcation constante et prononcée, elles préviennent toute contestation sur les propriétés et l'usage des eaux, et elles exigent peu de points d'observation.

"Une bonne frontière doit avoir de plus des communications libres et faciles avec

l'intérieur du pays et laisser peu de passes perpendiculaires sur sa longueur. C'est ainsi que les bonnes frontières garantissent, non-seulement la sécurité stable et réciproque des Etats limitrophes, mais aussi le bon gouvernement de ces Etats.

"Le Baron Félix de Beaujours, qui est une grande autorité en ces matières, dit: 'Il n'y a que des Etats bien circonscrits qui puissent être bien gouvernés, et la meilleure manière de circonscrire les Etats, c'est de suivre la circonscription indiquée par la nature.'

"C'est en appliquant ces principes que la ligne du côté nord de la vallée du Pénée a été tracée à partir d'un point entre Dion et Spitzi, et en suivant toujours la crête des montagnes qui forment presque une chaîne continue jusqu'au village de Crania.

"Le point principal compris dans cette partie de la ligne est la gorge de Pétra, qui est la limite naturelle de la vallée, car le bassin de réception du Sarantaporos, un des principaux affluents du Pénée, y a son point central. De plus, étant le centre de plusieurs routes, cette gorge est indispensable pour le maintien de l'ordre dans l'intérieur et pour la défense du pays. Toute frontière tracée au-dessous de ce point serait conventionnelle et, par cela même, elle ne serait pas sûre et elle ne préviendrait pas les conflits et les difficultés qu'on a voulu éviter lorsqu'on a reconnu la nécessité d'une nouvelle frontière. Pétra se rattache au littoral par la ligne de partage des eaux qui aboutit au point sus-indiqué entre Dion et Spitzi.

"Au nord-est de Pétra s'élève la Montagne Flambouros, qui est une limite septentrionale de la vallée et qui forme la ligne la plus haute et la plus prononcée. Au-dessus de cette montagne il n'y a que des terres arides et inhabitées, qui ne seraient ni une perte pour la Turquie, ni un avantage pour la Grèce. Si nous faisons monter la ligne jusqu'à la crête de Flambouros ce n'est que pour des motifs de sécurité dans l'intérêt des deux pays.

"Sapka est aussi une limite septentrionale de la vallée. Entre Sapka et la crête des monts Amurhés et Cambounia, le col des Portes offre un point indispensable pour la défense du pays. Les Portes sont le point central du bassin de réception du principal embranchement du Sarataporos, qui, ainsi que nous l'avons dit, est un des affluents du Pénée.

"En partant de là pour arriver aux montagnes de Kassia, nous trouvons Georgitz, qui est une autre limite naturelle de la Vallée du Pénée et qui forme aussi le point central du bassin de réception d'un autre affluent du même nom.

"C'est ainsi que la ligne proposée est pleinement justifiée, du côté de la Vallée du Pénée.

"Maintenant, en commençant par l'autre extrémité de la ligne, du côté de la Mer Ionienne, c'est encore sous le rapport de la sécurité réciproque des deux Etats qu'on est forcé de porter cette limite septentrionale un peu plus haut que l'extrémité nord de l'Isle de Corfou. Quelqu'autre point qu'on prenne sur la côte de l'Epire pour y faire aboutir la limite septentrionale de la Vallée de Calamas, il y aura toujours une partie de l'Ile de Corfou qui se trouvera en face de la côte Ottomane, et qui restera sans défense. Le point le plus étroit du canal est entre Bouthrolo (Boutzintro) sur la côte de l'Epire, et Caragol sur l'Ile de Corfou; c'est là l'entrée du canal et le point qui le domine. Le Lac de Bouzintro a été de tout temps considéré comme une dépendance de Corfou. Les Vénitiens, qui ont eu la domination de l'Ile pendant quatre siècles et les Français après eux, l'ont possédé; les terres autour du lac appartenaient à des familles de cette île, dont elles portent encore le nom. D'ailleurs, il est de principe que les deux côtés d'un détroit donnant accès dans un canal ou dans un golfe, doivent être la possession de l'un ou de l'autre des Etats riverains.

"Ce principe a été appliqué par ceux qui se sont occupés de la délimitation du Royaume Hellénique, et il leur a paru tellement inflexible qu'ils ont détaché un morceau du territoire qui était déjà acquis à la Grèce, pour donner à la Turquie les deux côtés de l'entrée du Golfe de Preveza.

"Or, pour garantir la possession de Boutzintro il fallait, d'après les principes de crêtes et de partage des eaux, remonter aux sources des torrents Pauvla et Vitzitza, qui jettent leurs eaux dans le lac.

"C'est pour cela que le point terminus de la ligne a été placé entre le village Bicerni et Supoti, c'est-à-dire, au sommet de la Montagne Supoti. Pour relier cette sommité à la crête Sopot et aux sources du Calamas, qui sont sur la Montagne Nomentzka, la ligne la plus courte est celle qui passe par la chaîne des monts Sopot, qui continue entre le village Davikon et Lazarets et qui, par le torrent Launi Suchos, parvient, en traversant la crête Boutzacopoule, au village Politzani. La possession de ce village est aussi justifiée par des raisons de sécurité réciproque.

"Quant au courant de Vovoussa qui, en remontant la ligne, vient après Politzani, on a dû le suivre pour ne pas démembrer le groupe indivisible des villages de Zagori. Les habitants de ces villages, craignant ce démembrement, qui serait la ruine complète de leurs intérêts, se sont déjà adressés au Gouvernement Hellénique et aux Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, pour réclamer contre cette éventualité. Les conséquences de ce démembrement seraient, en effet, désastreuses sous tous les rapports. On n'a qu'à lire leur Mémoire pour s'en convaincre.

"Quant au village de Crania, qui est le point où les deux tronçons de la ligne se rencontrent, il est la seule communication en hiver entre l'Epire et la Thessalie, et il se rattache, comme un secteur inévitable, au Metzovo, qui est le terrain de jonction des deux parties de la ligne, et sur lequel nous avons l'honneur de soumettre un travail spécial annexé au présent Mémoire.

"Nous croyons avoir justifié les écarts qu'on pourrait relever dans le tracé de la nouvelle frontière; nous avons toujours pris comme bases premières les indications géographiques du Protocole 13, et nous les avons appliquées et développées sans esprit de convoitise, et pour des motifs qui découlent inévitablement de l'esprit du Protocole, des principes qui l'ont dicté. Il y a dans toutes ces questions une nécessité logique et des lois naturelles, qu'on ne voile pas impunément. Mais, quoi qu'il en soit, nous tenons à déclarer encore une fois que notre tracé n'est pas un travail complet et definitif. Nous serons toujours prêts à reconnaître les erreurs qu'on voudra bien nous démontrer et nous ne nous départirons jamais de cet esprit de conciliation qui a été notre règle constante.

"Pour compléter ce travail, il ne nous reste qu'à parler des populations qui, par la nouvelle frontière, seraient annexées au Royaume Hellénique.

"Quant à la partie de la Thessalie qui serait annexée à la Grèce, nous n'avons que très-peu de chose à dire. De l'aveu de tout le monde ce pays est habité par une population homogène, Grecque de race, de langue, de religion, qui a eu la même histoire que les Hellènes du royaume, qui a pris une part très-importante à la guerre de l'indépendance, et qui a plusieurs fois manifesté ses aspirations nationales.

"Quant à l'Epire, dont une partie serait également annexée au Royaume Hellénique, nous pourrions nous borner à répéter ce que nous venons de dire de la Thessalie. Mais dernièrement on a fait éclore une question Albanaise par une agitation factice, et on a secoué cet épouvantail aux yeux de l'Europe comme une menace et un danger dont l'Europe ne s'était pas doutée lorsqu'elle s'occupait à régler, par le Protocole 13, le sort des pays limitrophes au Royaume Hellénique.

"Nous pourrions faire ici, en détail, l'histoire de cette agitation, indiquer les moyens dont on s'est servi pendant et après les Conférences de Preveza, et le but auquel on visait.

"Nous renonçons à l'avantage qui nous pourrions tirer de cette histoire et nous aimons mieux nous borner à des simples données statistiques.

"Nous ne nions pas qu'il y a des Albanais en Epire comme il y en a à Hydra, à Spetzia, à Corfou, et aux portes d'Athènes. Ces Albanais se sont, depuis plusieurs siècles, identifiés complétement avec la race Hellénique; ils ont partagé ses malheurs, ses luttes, et ses espérances. Leurs noms figurent au premier rang à chaque page de notre histoire.

"Ceux qui habitent la partie de l'Epire dont il s'agit ne sont pas d'une autre nature et leur nombre est minime.

"Nous prions nos honorables collègues de jeter les yeux sur la dépêche du 11 Mars, 1879, de son Excellence le Ministre d'Angleterre à Athènes, et sur les Tableaux statistiques qui y sont annexés (Blue Book No. 1, 1879), sur les statistiques publiées dans le même Blue Book à la page 168 et suivantes, sur la dépêche du Consul-Général Anglais à Salonique du 21 Avril, 1879, et sur la Table qui y est annexée.

"Ces sources ne peuvent pas être récusées. Dans leur ensemble elles donnent un résultat qui n'est pas celui du Mémoire que M. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans nous ont fait l'honneur de nous communiquer à la séance du $\frac{13}{25}$ Octobre.

"Le résultat qu'elles nous donnent est que dans les populations dont il s'agit il y a un contingent qui varie d'un cinquième à un dixième, suivant les localités, et qui est composé d'Albanais non chrétiens, de Musulmans, et d'Israélites. Nous ne voyons pas d'où viendraient les dangers de l'annexion et la lutte dont on a voulu effrayer l'Europe.

"Janina est une ville éminemment Grecque; elle a été pendant des siècles la capitale intellectuelle de l'Hellénisme; c'est à ses écoles qu'ont professé ou que se sont formés des savants de tous genres qui ont maintenu et propagé les traditions religieuses et littéraires du peuple Hellène; ses nobles enfants se sont toujours

distingués par leur patriotisme et par leur générosité envers la nation. Dans la ville et la Province de Janina le Grec est parlé même par les Musulmans et les Israélites. Il n'y a que quelques villages (de six à dix) qui parlent outre le Grec, le Valaque, et dix autres qui parlent le Grec et l'Albanais. S'il fallait citer des autorités à l'appui de cette thèse, elles ne nous manqueraient pas, ainsi que nous avons l'honneur de l'indiquer dans la note annexée à ce Mémoire. Nous nous bornerons à citer ici un organe Ottoman. Le journal officiel du Vilayet de Janina du 2 Février, 1878, dit textuellement: 'L'Epire n'oublie jamais qu'elle est l'ancienne Hellade, la première station de l'Hellénisme où naquirent la religion et les lettres Grecques et d'où elles furent de nouveau répandues sur toute la Grèce; en Epire tous les habitants appartiennent à une même race, à une même nationalité, une et indivisible.'

"Il n'est donc pas permis de confondre l'Epire avec l'Albanie. La Vallée de Calamas, qui n'est qu'une partie de l'Epire, n'a jamais été Albanaise dans le passé; elle ne l'est pas non plus actuellement; il peut y avoir des Albanais là comme dans tous les pays Grecs; mais nous affirmons qu'il n'y a pas à craindre la moindre réaction de leur part contre l'annexion.

"Il y a dans le Royaume Hellénique des Albanais, des Musulmans, des Israélites. Ils jouissent tous des mêmes droits civils et politiques que les autres habitants, droits garantis par la législation la plus libérale de l'Europe; ils n'ont jamais élevé la voix pour se plaindre d'un seul acte d'intolérance ou d'oppression.

"Au surplus, il y a un moyen bien simple de s'assurer des aspirations des peuples qui habitent les deux vallées. Qu'on les interroge, qu'on leur offre l'occasion d'exprimer en toute liberté et avec une entière sécurité leurs vœux; nous acceptons d'avance leur réponse.

"Nous avons rempli notre tâche en répondant aux arguments de nos honorables collègues. Nous espérons l'avoir fait avec vérité et modération.

"La question qui nous occupe est trop grave et trop élevée, pour qu'on ne soit pas obligé de l'étudier avec la plus consciencieuse exactitude. Elle ne date pas d'aujourd'hui; elle existe de très-longtemps entre la Turquie et la Grèce, et elle a compromis bien des fois leurs rapports réciproques, paralysé la marche régulière et progressive des deux pays, et épuisé leurs ressources. Ce n'est pas une question d'intérêt matériel, un marché où l'on débat le plus ou le moins des concessions possibles. Il ne s'agit pas de dépouiller une des parties pour enrichir l'autre, et le principe qu'on a invoqué qu'il faut favoriser la partie qui donne et restreindre les demandes de celle qui reçoit n'est pas ici applicable.

"La question dont il s'agit est de toute autre nature et d'un ordre beaucoup plus élevé; elle se rattache à la plus grande question du siècle, à cette question qui surgit inévitablement de la situation de l'Orient et qui met en présence et a mis trop souvent en lutte les plus grands intérêt de l'Europe. La solution qu'elle réclame a été sagement indiquée par le Congrès de Berlin. Il s'agit de réparer une ancienne erreur signalée par les politiques les plus éminents de l'époque; il s'agit de compléter, dans la mesure du possible, une œuvre qui est restée incomplète, de donner satisfaction à des aspirations légitimes parce qu'elles sont fondées sur la nature des choses, sur les lois de l'histoire, et sur les droits imprescriptibles de l'humanité. Qu'on suppose l'Epire et la Thessalie partagées par une ligne autre que celle du Protocole, par une ligne arbitraire, celle du thalweg ou toute autre au sud des deux fleuves, il est évident qu'au lieu de supprimer les difficultés actuelles et d'en extirper les germes, on les laisserait subsister en les aggravant.

"Les deux Etats ne seraient pas pour cela dans une position meilleure. On nous rendra la justice d'admettre que depuis que le Protocole existe, nous avons professé pour cet acte Européen le plus grand respect. Toutes nos déclarations, pendant les négociations de Preveza et les négociations actuelles, en font foi. Si l'on trouvait que dans la ligne que nous proposons nous nous sommes écartés sur quelque point de ses indications, on reconnaîtra que nous avons dû interpréter la lettre du Protocole dans un sens large pour des raisons d'un intérêt commun, et avec la conviction que nous réalisons par-là plus complétement son esprit. Ce n'est qu'en nous pénétrant les uns et les autres de cet esprit que nous pourrons résoudre cette question, qui est depuis longtemps pendante, et qui réclame une solution conforme aux intérêts véritables des deux pays. Nous nous prêterons à cette solution—nous tenons à le répéter en finissant—avec le désir sincère d'arriver par la conciliation à une entente directe et définitive."

Son Excellence Savas Pacha dit que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans examineront avec la plus grande attention le Mémoire dont il vient d'être donné lecture, pour répondre par écrit aux arguments qu'il contient tant en ce qui concerne les populations

de l'Epire et de la Thessalie qu'en ce qui touche la partie technique. Quant à la ligne en elle-même, ligne tout-à-fait étrangère aux indications du Protocole 13 et par conséquent inadmissible, elle fait l'objet d'un Mémoire que son Altesse Safvet Pacha lira dans cette même séance, et qui démontre qu'elle s'écarte et s'éloigne du but que l'on a en vue, puisque, malgré l'affirmation contraire de MM. les Plenipotentiaires Hellènes, elle est en opposition formelle avec la pensée des signataires du susdit Protocole.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha donne lecture du Mémoire suivant:—

"Les Plénipotentiaires du Gouvernement Royal de Grèce, par la pièce dont ils ont donné lecture dans la précédente séance, répondent aux considérations que leurs collègues Ottomans avaient développés dans le Mémoire au sujet de la ligne générale résultant des indications du Protocole 13.

"Ils déclarent tout d'abord que ce Mémoire a eu pour effet de démontrer combien ils avaient eu raison de prêter à leurs collègues Ottomans l'intention d'écarter au plus vite les indications du Protocole 13, tout en paraissant disposés à les admettre comme base de discussion. Ils s'étonnent d'ailleurs que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'aient pas cru devoir proposer une autre base de négociations, et en concluent que toute discussion ultérieure devrait être considérée comme impossible.

"A cette première partie de l'argumentation de leurs collègues, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans répondent que, bien loin d'avoir mis de côté les indications du Protocole 13, ils les ont prises, au contraire, ainsi qu'ils l'avaient promis, en haute considération, puisqu'ils les ont examinées avec le plus grand soin et qu'ils ont fait connaître les objections que cette ligne générale leur paraissait soulever, afin de donner à leurs collègues de Grèce l'occasion, soit d'admettre ces objections et en conséquence de rechercher en commun les moyens d'y porter remède, soit de les combattre et d'en démontrer le mal fondé. Le reproche n'est donc, en aucune façon, mérité.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes auraient, sans aucun doute, avancé davantage les négociations s'ils avaient sérieusement discuté les objections qui leur étaient soumises, au lieu de se borner à déclarer, comme ils l'ont fait en termes généraux, que ces objections ne sont pas justifiées et que les faits invoqués sont erronés, sans apporter d'ailleurs aucune preuve, aucun raisonnement, à l'appui de leurs dénégations.

"Dans la seconde partie de leur pièce, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes rappelant la nouvelle ligne qu'ils ont proposée dans la précédente séance, croient pouvoir affirmer deux choses: la première, c'est que cette ligne nouvelle découle logiquement et naturellement des indications du Protocole No. 13; la seconde, c'est qu'elle obvie entièrement à tous les inconvénients que présentait la ligne générale, telle que l'avaient comprise les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans.

"Sur le premier point, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont déjà répondu dans la précédente séance et démontré que dès l'instant où les indications du Protocole doivent être interprétées dans le sens proposé par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, ce n'est point sur les hauteurs septentrionales, mais bien sur les hauteurs méridionales que doit être tracée la ligne générale de Berlin. Ils ont, en outre, affirmé avec non moins de raison, et ils continuent à affirmer, que la nouvelle ligne n'est même pas conforme à la thèse soutenue par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, puisqu'elle est placée bien au delà des premiers sommets qui dominent les plaines du Calamas et du Pénéus.

"A ce propos, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont pris l'engagement, dans la précédente séance, de faire examiner de nouveau par des Officiers d'Etat-Major la ligne présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, afin de vérifier si, suivant leur affirmation, elle est conforme aux indications du Protocole No. 13, c'est-à-dire si elle était tracée sur les hauteurs limitant au nord les deux vallées.

"Ce nouvel examen, très-consciencieux, a prouvé jusqu'à l'évidence que la ligne présentée n'a rien de commun avec les indications du Protocole No. 13. En effet, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, après avoir établi le principe que la ligne du Congrès ne doit point être tracée dans le fond, mais bien sur les hauteurs des vallées, l'ont eux-mêmes et immédiatement méconnu, ainsi qu'on va le voir.

"En Epire, leur ligne suit le thalweg du fleuve Voyousta du point Kranda jusqu'à Policeni, sur une longueur de plus de 70 kilom. Plus loin, elle traverse en plein la Vallée de Drinos en la coupant au sud d'Argyrocastro au lieu de suivre les montagnes qui les conduisaient droit sur Conispolis. Il en résulte, qu'en Epire le territoire compris entre leur ligne et celle que l'on pourrait tracer sur les éminences septentrionales de la Vallée du Calamas présente une superficie de 5,000 kilom. carrés.

"En Thessalie, l'écart n'est pas moins considérable, car, au lieu de suivre les éminences limitant au nord la Vallée du Pénéus, les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques s'en

sont considérablement écartés. D'abord, ils ont compris dans leur tracé la Rivière Kirin, qui est un affluent du Pénéus, mais dont la vallée tout-à-fait indépendante et séparée ne saurait, suivant les règles de l'art, être confondue avec celle du Pénéus. Quoi qu'il en soit, et en admettant même que cette vallée puisse être confondue avec celle du Pénéus, la ligne aurait dû, à partir des hauteurs de Capka, s'infléchir de façon à suivre les hauteurs de la Sona pour gagner la mer près de Kara-Derbend, tandis qu'elle fait un nouvel écart absolument arbitraire pour rejoindre la mer près de Malatria. Ce second écart englobe quatre vallées qui n'ont aucune relation avec la Vallée du Pénéus, dont elles sont séparées par des montagnes. Il s'ensuit qu'en Thessalie la ligne Hellénique enveloppe 4,000 kilom. carrés de plus que n'en comprendrait une ligne normale tracée sur les hauteurs nord de la vallée.

"Pour rendre le résultat de cette démonstration plus sensible, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont tracé cette dernière ligne sur la Carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, ainsi qu'il suit:

"La ligne part de la mer Egée près de Cara-Derbend, monte entre les villages Crania et Crupsani, suit la montagne au sud du Lac de Livadaki et se dirige sur Moluwa, couronne les hauteurs qui dominent Tirnovo, traverse la rivière de Xeria pour gagner les hauteurs qui commandent Salambria au nord, en passant entre les villages d'Elefterochorion et de Christiano, se dirige sur les Montagnes de Capournia et Cassia, de là suit la crête des Montagnes de Mezzovo, en passant près de Baltino, Malakessi, Péristéri, Syrakou, Morpi, Néochori, puis, suivant les hauteurs Sud de Janina, gagne les hauteurs qui dominent au nord la Vallée du Calamas, en passant par Gramos, Veltchista, Zitcha, Zecovina, Delvinaki, Arendista, la Montagne Pharmocovounou, pour aboutir à la Mer Ionienne près de Conispolis.

"Sur le second point, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'hésitent pas à reconnaître que la nouvelle ligne inventée par leurs collègues supprime naturellement quelques-unes des objections formulées dans leur Mémoire contre la ligne de Berlin. En effet, pour simplifier le problème du partage des deux provinces et pour éviter les inconvénients de cette espèce de mutilation, les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont trouvé un moyen véritablement radical, qui consiste à les absorber tout entières. Malheureusement, cette solution inattendue qui, d'ailleurs, soulèverait de nouvelles et graves difficultés, vient se heurter à la troisième considération exposée dans le Mémoire des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, démontrant la trop grande extension que la ligne de Berlin donnerait à la rectification de frontières, dans l'hypothèse même où la ligne serait tracée au fond des deux vallées. Elle se heurterait également, la Sublime Porte en est ferment convaincue, au sentiment unanime des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans remplissent maintenant le second engagement qu'ils ont pris dans la précédente séance, qui était de faire connaître la ligne tracée sur les hauteurs méridionales des Vallées du Calamas et du Pénéus et qui, suivant l'interprétation que le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce entend donner aux indications du Protocole No. 13, constituerait la véritable ligne générale de Berlin.

"Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne croient pas nécessaire de démontrer de nouveau, à cette occasion, que dès l'instant où la ligne ne doit pas être tracée au fond des vallées, ce sont les hauteurs méridionales qui seules peuvent et doivent être adoptées. La préférence qui serait donnée aux hauteurs septentrionales, outre qu'elle blesserait tous les principes du droit et de l'équité, irait certainement à l'encontre du vœu des Puissances, qui n'ont jamais entendu ni désiré que, sous le prétexte d'une rectification de frontières, l'Empire Ottoman fût dépouillé d'une partie aussi considérable de ses Etats.

"La ligne tracée sur la partie méridionale des Vallées du Pénéus et du Calamas part du Cap Posi, gravit la Montagne de Ciragiolika qu'elle suit jusqu'à Ghidel, s'infléchit sur Kasimili, passe près d'Avarina, Rocani, Rendina, Catachloros, Kirona, Caravi, Carbos, suit les Montagnes de Laemos, au-dessus de Castania, pour atteindre Péristéri et prendre les hauteurs qui dominent au sud la Vallée de Janina jusqu'à Néochori; de là, gagne Cosmera, Tchurcovista, Zarevouri, Labinica, Néochori, Courtesi, et aboutit à la Mer Ionienne près de Lista dans la baie de Gomenitza.

"D'après l'interprétation donnée aux indications du Protocole par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, cette ligne doit être considérée comme celle de Berlin. C'est donc la ligne sur laquelle doit porter la discussion, à l'exclusion absolue de celle qui a été proposée par la Grèce et qui ne repose, ainsi qu'il a été démontré, sur aucune base rationnelle ni même admissible.

"En convient leurs honorables collègues à entrer dans l'examen de cette ligne, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent formellement qu'ils ne la présentent pas

comme constituant une proposition de leur part, mais comme un simple aperçu de la ligne qui doit être considérée comme étant celle de Berlin, d'après l'interprétation donnée par la Grèce aux indications du Protocole. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent, en outre, que cette ligne présentant des inconvénients analogues à ceux qu'ils ont signalés au sujet de la ligne du thalweg, il est bien entendu que cette ligne est à discuter, et que chacune des deux parties est libre de la critiquer et d'y introduire les modifications qu'un examen attentif et contradictoire pourra suggérer. C'est ainsi que l'on trouvera une ligne remplissant le but que l'Europe s'est proposé et qui, suivant la formule présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, consiste à établir entre les deux Etats des rapports de stable et réciproque sécurité."

M. Colocotroni dit que le Mémoire déposé aujourd'hui par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes donne des explications suffisantes, quant aux écarts de la ligne septentrionale des vallées indiquées au Protocole de Berlin. Il n'admet pas que la ligne septentrionale soit dépassée et s'applique à démontrer qu'en Thessalie on n'a pas voulu, par modération et conciliation, remonter, comme on avait le droit de le faire, à Makria-Rachi, où ont leurs sources les eaux qui se jettent dans l'Aliakmou.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, combattant la manière de voir de son honorable collègue M. Colocotroni, soutient que la ligne présentée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques ne répond, en aucune façon, aux indications du Protocole 13. L'écart qui existe entre cette ligne et les indications du Protocole est prouvé par le Mémoire dont son Altesse Safvet Pasha a donné lecture et dont la partie technique est due à des hommes spéciaux et compétents. Ainsi que nos honorables collègues, dit-il, l'ont remarqué, ce Mémoire contient en premier lieu le tracé d'une ligne qui suit les hauteurs nord des deux vallées. Cette ligne a été tracée pour démontrer combien celle proposée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes s'éloigne des indications du Protocole 13 interprétées dans le sens du Gouvernement Royal, c'est-à-dire d'une ligne tracée sur les éminences septentrionales du Calamas et du Pénéus. A l'appui de cette démonstration, son Excellence Sawas Pacha ajoute qu'en Thessalie MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont confondu la Vallée du Xéria avec celle du Pénéus. Il est vrai, dit-il, que les deux rivières s'unissent, mais on ne saurait, scientifiquement parlant, considérer la vallée de l'une comme dépendante de celle de l'autre. Le Tigre et l'Euphrate, poursuit Sawas Pacha, s'unissent bien aussi pour ne former qu'un seul fleuve; mais leurs vallées sont distinctes et indépendantes. Cette vérité s'applique au cours d'eau en question, quoique dans des dimensions tout-à-fait minimes. En dehors de la Vallée de Xéria, la ligne de la Grèce englobe en Thessalie quatre autres vallées n'ayant aucun rapport avec celle du Pénéus, commençant loin d'elle et finissant sur la Mer Egée à une distance considérable de l'embouchure de ce fleuve. "Quoi qu'il en soit," dit Sawas Pacha, "la théorie induite par nos honorables collègues devrait avoir une application plus conforme à l'esprit et à la lettre du Protocole. Nous y trouvons bien le mot 'vallée,' mais le mot 'bassin hydrographique' n'y figure point. Or, MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont complétement abandonné les vallées des deux fleuves pour s'étendre en dehors d'elles à la recherche du partage des eaux qui termine non pas les vallées, mais les bassins hydrographiques des deux fleuves. Non contents de l'extension qu'ils ont si arbitrairement donnée au mot 'vallée' en lui substituant dans la réalité le bassin hydrographique, ils ont dépassé en Epire et en Thessalie le bassin même, puisqu'ils ont cherché plus au nord une ligne comprenant d'autres vallées et parcourant des thalwegs et des fleuves entièrement étrangers aux indications du Protocole. La seconde ligne," continua son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "indiquée dans notre Mémoire, est celle qui, d'après la théorie invoquée par nos honorables collègues, constituerait la véritable ligne du Congrès. Cette ligne n'est pas la nôtre; nous n'en avons pas, nous ne saurions trop le répéter. C'est la ligne que nous indiquons, d'après le Protocole, comme base de nos négociations; c'est celle que nous devons discuter librement pour la modifier d'un commun accord et la rendre acceptable pour les deux pays."

Son Excellence M. Colocotroni, prenant la parole, s'exprime en ces termes:—"Permettez-moi de vous adresser quelques questions: Admettez-vous ce que vous appelez notre théorie et qui est une théorie universelle, c'est-à-dire la ligne de partage des eaux? Si vous l'admettez, quelle est la ligne qui, selon vous, répond à ce principe? La ligne du thalweg est repoussée par vous et elle l'a été par nous avant vous. A présent, vous repoussez la ligne de partage des eaux. Quelle est donc votre théorie si vous n'admettez pas les deux lignes naturelles? Est-ce une ligne conventionnelle? Comment entendez-vous l'appliquer? Si vous n'admettez pas tout cela, quelle est la ligne qui, indépendamment de tout principe connu, répond, selon vous, d'une manière quelconque, au but du Protocole? Veuillez nous l'indiquer et nous développer ses avantages. Vous n'adoptez aucune ligne et vous indiquez simplement la ligne méridionale. Je pourrais dès à présent réfuter cette ligne qui, d'après son Excellence Sawas Pacha, a été tracée par les hommes de l'art, mais je me borne à vous faire remarquer que la comparaison du Tigre et de l'Euphrate avec le Xéria et le Pénéus n'est pas du tout juste et applicable."

Son Excellence M. Braïlas dit qu'il s'abstiendra de s'occuper des questions techniques. Les officiers d'Etat-Major attachés à la Délégation Ottomane pourraient facilement s'entendre sur ces questions avec son Excellence le Major Colocotroni si on voulait bien les mettre en relation avec lui. Mais la question principale n'est pas là. Elle est plus sérieuse, car il n'y a pas moyen de s'entendre sur la ligne à tracer, du moment que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans déclarent n'avoir pas de ligne. Son Excellence M. Braïlas aime à croire que ses honorables collègues en disant qu'ils n'ont pas de ligne ont voulu seulement déclarer qu'ils ont mis tout-à-fait de côté la ligne de Preveza; mais il ne peut pas croire qu'ils n'aient pas à proposer une autre ligne, puisqu'une ligne est indispensable pour faire naître une discussion sérieuse. Il ne peut pas concevoir que depuis le début des Conférences, la Porte n'ait pas pensé à une ligne. Il exhorte donc les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans à présenter cette ligne, car autrement il ne voit pas à quoi il pourrait être utile de continuer ces Conférences. C'est en vue de cette nécessité que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont commencé par demander à leurs honorables collègues s'ils acceptaient les bases du Protocole. La question posée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes était toute pratique; il s'agissait pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ou d'accepter, ou de rejeter, ou enfin de modifier la ligne de Berlin.

Il est vrai que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont pris en considération les indications du Protocole No. 13, mais pour les rejeter tout aussitôt. Les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques les ayant étudiées ont trouvé une ligne qui peut avoir plus ou moins les défauts que le Mémoire Ottoman lui attribue, mais, en tout cas, elle pourrait être améliorée par un examen comparatif avec celle qui aurait dû être proposée par la Sublime Porte. Au lieu de cela, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se bornent à combattre la ligne présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Helléniques et ils indiquent, comme simple interprétation doctrinale, une autre ligne sans la proposer. Or, cette ligne elle-même n'est pas soutenable, comme il résulte des considérations contenues dans le Mémoire lu aujourd-hui, et, de plus, elle est en contradiction avec la ligne du thalweg que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans soutenaient dans leur précédent Mémoire être celle du Protocole. Dans le Protocole il n'y a qu'un mot, "vallée." La vallée a un côté nord et un côté sud. De même que la Grèce propose le côté nord, de même les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans avaient bien le droit de proposer une autre ligne au sud. En ayant ces deux lignes, on pourrait facilement trouver la vraie ligne. Pour cela, il ne faut pas une interprétation théorique, mais une proposition concrète et positive qui ne sortira jamais de la discussion si elle n'est pas faite par l'une ou l'autre des parties.

En terminant, M. Braïlas fait appel à l'esprit conciliant des Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, et les prie de vouloir bien mettre un terme aux discussions infructueuses qui se poursuivent depuis dix-huit mois et qui, continuant de la même manière, ne pourraient jamais aboutir à un résultat satisfaisant.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha répond qu'après avoir été mis dans la nécessité de démontrer que la ligne proposée par MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes s'écarte totalement des indications du Protocole No. 13, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont dû tracer la ligne qui, d'après la théorie de leurs collègues, constituerait la vraie ligne de Berlin. Cette ligne, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, fidèles à leur programme, l'offrent à une libre discussion. De cette discussion, dit son Altesse, naîtra la ligne qui pourra être adoptée comme frontière entre les deux Etats.

Son Excellence M. Colocotroni, reprenant la parole, dit que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont insisté pour la ligne septentrionale, parce que la ligne méridionale a les mêmes inconvénients que la frontière actuelle. Il croit que c'est aux Plénipotentiaires Ottomans d'attaquer la ligne septentrionale en proposant et en défendant celle qui est au sud.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait observer que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne sont pas venus à la Conférence pour attaquer ou défendre une ligne, mais bien pour en chercher une en négociant loyalement avec leurs collègues, et quand on négocie franchement et sérieusement, dit son Excellence, on ne doit pas avoir d'opinion préconçue. Aussi, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne défendent-ils aucune ligne et se bornent-ils à soumettre à la discussion, afin de la modifier, celle qu'ils ont tracée sur les hauteurs méridionales des deux vallées et qui est celle de Berlin.

Son Excellence M. Colocotroni explique que par les mots "attaquer et défendre," il entendait dire qu'il importait d'ouvrir la discussion par une proposition formelle. Il

revient sur la nécessité qu'il y a pour les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans d'adopter une ligne, faute de laquelle, déclare-t-il, toute discussion ultérieure devient impossible.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha, répondant au discours de son Excellence M. Braïlas, dit que "si les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans n'ont pas, comme leurs prédécesseurs de Preveza, présenté une ligne à leurs honorables collègues, c'est que, dès leur seconde réunion, ils ont déclaré et répète depuis à plusieurs reprises que, par déférence pour le vœu exprimé à Berlin, leur ferme intention est de discuter la ligne générale résultant du Protocole No. 13. Or, en proposant une autre ligne, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, qui se considèrent comme liés par leurs propres déclarations, s'exposeraient à un blâme légitime de la part des Puissances, parce qu'ils se contrediraient non-seulement avec eux-mêmes, mais aussi avec la promesse qu'ils ont faite en face de l'Europe de ne vouloir discuter que les indications du Congrès. Quant à ce qui s'est passé à Preveza, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans se sont appliqués à n'en parler que le moins possible. Il ne faut pas en inférer qu'ils désapprouvent la conduite des Commissaires de la Sublime Porte. Au contraire, s'il était nécessaire, ils prouveraient que les Commissaires Hellènes à Preveza ont précipité les choses et provoqué une rupture intempestive. Mais cette nécessité ne se faisant pas sentir et les négociations actuelles n'ayant rien de commun avec ce qui a été fait à Preveza, les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont soigneusement évité d'en faire mention. Aujourd'hui, en effet, il s'agit de discuter la ligne de Berlin. Cette ligne quelle est-elle?" Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans avaient suivi le Protocole fidèlement, et avaient considéré les deux vallées comme une zone dans laquelle la ligne devait être tracée. Ils avaient, dès lors, loyalement présenté les objections qui résulteraient de son adoption, mais leurs honorables collègues ayant soutenu qu'elle devait suivre les éminences qui bornent non pas les vallées, mais les bassins hydrographiques du Calamas et du Pénéus, ils n'ont pas voulu repousser cette théorie; ils l'ont, au contraire, suivi en traçant sur les hauteurs méridionales la ligne de Berlin avec le même droit que MM. les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes disent l'avoir tracée sur les hauteurs septentrionales. Si donc la ligne de partage des eaux est prise comme ligne de Berlin, il est clair que ce sont les hauteurs méridionales et non pas les hauteurs septentrionales qui, suivant la science du droit, doivent former la ligne du Congrès, puisque le système introduit par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ne saurait être appliqué autrement qu'à l'avantage de la Puissance qui doit perdre une partie de son territoire au profit de l'autre. "La ligne du Congrès," ajoute son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "est soumise maintenant à la discussion de la Conférence. Examinons-la sans prévention, sans arrière-pensée, sans parti-pris, et cherchons d'un commun accord à la modifier de manière à la rendre acceptable pour les deux Etats."

Son Excellence M. Caboutroni insiste de nouveau pour que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans adoptent et proposent formellement une ligne car, d'après lui, on ne pourrait autrement continuer la discussion.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha répète que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne peuvent proposer aucune ligne, et que c'est, après discussion et débat contradictoire, qu'on pourra en adopter une.

Son Excellence M. Braïlas, faisant ressortir la nécessité d'une conclusion pour la séance d'aujourd'hui, constate que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ne veulent pas proposer une ligne, car ce serait, disent-ils, manquer d'égards vis-à-vis de l'Europe, à laquelle ils ont promis de discuter la ligne de Berlin. Son Excellence dit que ses honorables collègues peuvent être assurés que l'Europe ne se fâcherait pas si la Porte consentait à proposer une ligne. Quant à la manière dont cette négociation est conduite, M. Braïlas se permet de faire observer, qu'en discutant l'une après l'autre toutes les lignes possibles, on pourrait discuter éternellement sans jamais s'entendre. Revenant ensuite sur la ligne proposée par la Grèce, son Excellence fait observer que cette ligne a été tracée d'après des principes généralement admis, et que la théorie qu'on a appliquée en traçant cette ligne n'est pas une théorie inventée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, ni une découverte. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont soutenu que la ligne du Protocole est celle qui serait tracée au sud des deux vallées, mais ils ne l'ont pas prouvé. D'ailleurs, tous les inconvénients d'une frontière méridionale ont été clairement indiqués dans le Mémoire Hellénique, et on n'a qu'à jeter les yeux sur une carte pour les voir. "Si nous plaçons la ligne au nord," continue son Excellence, "ce n'est pas par convoitise. Nous avons envisagé la question à un point de vue plus élevé. Nous croyons qu'il est de l'intérêt des deux Etats d'avoir une bonne frontière, et si on nous répète le mot 'dépouillement,' dont on s'est servi dans un Mémoire, nous répondrons par le mot 'revendication.' Il ne s'agit pas pour nous d'acquérir quelques kilomètres de plus ou de moins. Il s'agit d'une question plus sérieuse dans laquelle la Turquie est encore plus intéressée que la Grèce. Pour résoudre cette

question, nous avons pris la voie la plus courte en interprétant le Protocole, et en vous proposant la ligne qui découle de cette interprétation. Vous nous dites que ce n'est pas la vraie ligne, mais sans nous en proposer une autre." M. Braïlas se demande ensuite où on aboutirait en suivant un pareil système. Les négociations ne peuvent pas continuer, son Excellence le déclare hautement, et en terminant elle prie de nouveau les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans de proposer une ligne afin qu'on puisse la comparer avec celle déjà présentée par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes.

Son Altesse Safvet Pacha déclare que ses collègues et lui désirent sincèrement arriver à un résultat satisfaisant et constate que si les négociations ne sont pas, à l'heure qu'il est, plus avancées, ce n'est pas de la faute des Plenipotentiaires Ottomans.

Son Excellence M. Coundouriotis fait observer qu'on n'arrivera jamais à ce résultat tant désiré si on persiste à se perdre dans des discussions oiseuses, et exprime l'opinion de mettre un terme aux négociations.

Son Excellence Sawas Pacha rappelle qu'une première fois déjà il s'est trouvé dans le cas de prier son honorable collègue M. Coundouriotis de ne point précipiter les solutions. Il l'a fait dans l'intérêt d'une entente. Aujourd'hui encore, il lui adressera la même exhortation. Répondant ensuite à son Excellence M. Braïlas, Sawas Pacha fait observer qu'il n'a jamais dit que la théorie du partage des eaux était une découverte des Plénipotentiaires Hellènes. Il ne pouvait pas le dire. Il a dit, et il le répète, que c'est une théorie invoquée et introduite par eux. Il remercie l'honorable préopinant d'avoir déclaré qu'il ne s'agit pas dans la question en elle-même d'une transaction visant à arracher plus ou moins de territoire à l'un des deux pays pour le donner à l'autre, mais d'une négociation diplomatique jugée nécessaire par les Puissances, et dont le but si clairement indiqué par le aréopage Européen est d'amener une paix durable et une sincère entente entre les deux voisins, entente basée, sans nul doute, sur les sentiments d'amitié que les négociations présentes et leur résultat sont appelés à faire naître chez les deux nations. C'est pénétrés de cette vérité et animés des dispositions les plus conciliantes, que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont engagé ces négociations. Leur désir le plus sincère est de les faire aboutir. Son Excellence Sawas Pacha est heureux de constater que le mot "dépouillement" impressionne désagréablement ses honorables collègues. "Eh bien!" dit-il, "veut-on que cette rectification devienne un dépouillement? Certes, non. Je l'ai déjà dit, et je me plais à le répéter. Non; nous sommes persuadés que nos honorables collègues ne visent pas à un dépouillement. C'est cette conviction profonde qui nous a engagés à leur demander de renouer à la ligne qu'ils ont proposée, ligne qui, suivant nous comme suivant tout esprit impartial, constituerait un vrai dépouillement. Quant au mot 'revendication,' il ne saurait en aucun cas trouver sa place dans nos discussions." Revenant à la ligne, son Excellence Sawas Pacha ajoute: "l'Europe nous a conviés avec instance à une entente directe. Il faut donc supposer qu'elle désire intervenir le moins possible dans nos débats afin de nous permettre de nous arranger à l'amiable. Nous respectons cette pensée si juste et si délicate de l'Europe, et tout en professant la plus grande déférence pour l'autorité qui s'attache à son vœu, nous nous servons avec parcimonie de son nom dans nos discussions, ne voulant point influencer par ce moyen nos débats. Cependant, puisqu'on le veut, n'hésitons pas à dire que la ligne présentée par le Gouvernement Hellénique est condamnée par l'Europe, ce que nos honorables collègues eux-mêmes ne peuvent point ignorer. Mais comme ils n'ont pas voulu retirer cette ligne nous leur en avons présenté une autre qui est la ligne sud de Berlin, tandis que la leur n'est nullement en relation avec les indications du Protocole, n'étant point la ligne nord des bassins, et moins encore des vallées. Nous nous sommes comportés avec la plus grande mansuétude quand cette ligne nous a été proposée. Nos honorables collègues s'irritent aujourd'hui de ce que nous soumettons à leur étude une ligne du Congrès. Ils nous disent: 'est-elle la vôtre?' Non, elle ne saurait être que ce qu'elle est: la ligne sud des bassins hydrographiques du Calamas et du Pénéus, la ligne fille légitime du système que vous avez introduit. Nous ne pouvons pas l'adopter parce que ce n'est pas nous qui l'avons faite; c'est votre système qui l'a enfantée. Il faut donc que nous la discutions et que nous la modifions pour la rendre acceptable. Négocions, parcourons cette ligne et tâchons de la faire fléchir conformément aux exigences de la situation et du résultat que nous nous proposons d'obtenir, l'entente. Indépendamment de tout cela et quel que soit le point de vue auquel on envisage la rectification de frontières qui fait l'objet de négotiations présentes, elle n'en sera pas moins un sacrifice pour le pays et la nation. Il faut donc reconnaître que les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont à remplir une tâche autrement plus grave que celle de leurs honorables collègues, et il ne faut point s'irriter de les voir observer scrupuleusement une procédure tracée par ces débats et sanctionée par un verdict des Puissances. Il

ne faut pas s'impatienter de les voir chercher dans cette procédure la sécurité de tous et le succès des négociations. Les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans," continue son Excellence Sawas Pacha, "n'ignorent point les considérations de haute déontologie sociale et politique invoquées par son Excellence M. Braïlas, et c'est pour ne pas s'en écarter qu'ils demandent la régularité dans tout ce qui se fait ici. Ils ne savent point si l'Europe se fâcherait ou non de les voir présenter, comme leurs honorables collègues l'ont fait, une ligne étrangère aux indications du Protocole No. 13. Ils déclarent seulement qu'ils sont sûrs d'avoir son approbation en présentant la ligne sud comme ligne du Congrès et en la soumettant à la sage critique de leurs collègues. La Turquie a tout fait pour exécuter le Traité de Berlin. Tous ses efforts, tous ses soins sont encore dirigés vers le même but, et elle a droit d'attendre à ce qu'on lui tienne compte de sa bonne volonté." En finissant, son Excellence Sawas Pacha fait appel à la modération et à la conciliation de ses honorables collègues et les adjure de ne point s'en départir dans l'intérêt même de l'entente poursuivie.

A la suite d'un échangement d'idées, pendant lequel on a reproduit de part et d'autre les mêmes arguments, MM. les Plénipotentiaires décident de s'ajourner à Dimanche, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Novembre.

La séance est levée à 4 heures et demie.

(Signé) SAFVET.
SAWAS.
ALI SAIB.
A. G. COUNDOURIOTIS.
BRAÏLAS ARMENI.
P. COLOCOTRONI.

Annexe (A).

Entre les deux vallées indiquées au Protocole No. 13, il n'y a que trois lignes possibles:

1. Ou bien il faut prendre la ligne centrale de la vallée, c'est-à-dire le thalweg des deux fleuves, le Pénée et le Calamas;

2. Ou bien il faut tracer une ligne sur la sommité méridionale qui borde la vallée;

3. Ou bien il faut tracer cette ligne sur le sommet septentrional.

Il faut tout d'abord remarquer que, quelle que soit celle de ces trois lignes qu'on prenne comme ligne de délimitation, elles traversent, toutes les trois, Métzovo.

On doit remarquer ensuite que les cours d'eau n'ont j'amais été des frontières d'Etat. Toute l'histoire des peuples, en commençant par l'antiquité Hellénique et en descendant par les Romains jusqu'à Charlemagne et à Napoléon, prouve qu'on n'a jamais considéré les cours d'eau comme une frontière convenable, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit, comme dans le cas actuel, non pas de grands fleuves, mais simplement de petites rivières qui, en plusieurs endroits, sont facilement guéables.

Et lorsque la vallée est dans une contrée la principale communication la ligne du thalweg est certainement inadmissible, d'autant plus que par les vicissitudes des saisons et les variations qui en résultent, elle est essentiellement mobile.

Examinons maintenant successivement les deux autres lignes.

La ligne méridionale se réduit à peu près à la frontière actuelle. Or, du moment que les Puissances, et la Turquie elle-même, ont admis le principe de la rectification, cela suffirait pour la faire rejeter. Mais, outre cette raison, il y en a une autre encore plus décisive.

Les affluents du Pénée en Thessalie et ceux qui, un peu plus au sud du Calamas, se jettent dans la mer ont, suivant le méridien, des versants qui ne peuvent pas donner une ligne continue, et ils rendent par conséquent cette ligne inadmissible.

Il faut donc de toute nécessité admettre la ligne septentrionale.

Et ceci, en général, au point de vue géographique.

Au point de vue militaire et stratégique, la ligne méridionale des deux vallées est également inadmissible.

Non-seulement la configuration du terrain ne s'y prête pas, mais elle laisserait de côté le point inévitable de Metzovo, qui resterait comme un point saillant en dehors de la frontière, ce qui ne répondrait pas au but et aux conditions essentielles de la rectification, puisque:

1. Une telle frontière ne serait pas défendable par la Grèce, qui, étant un Etat de beaucoup plus petit que la Turquie, a grandement besoin d'obtenir au moins les avantages d'une bonne défense.

2. Il est de l'intérêt des deux Etats que la frontière soit suffisamment naturelle et pas conventionnelle et pour la défense et pour la sécurité réciproque. D'ailleurs, le Gouvernement Hellénique a traité la question de Metzovo dans un Mémoire spécial. Tout ce qui regarde les détails, quant au plateau, peut être réglé par la suite. Le plateau de Metzovo est le centre d'où partent: à l'Orient, la ligne du Pénée, et à l'Occident, la ligne du Calamas.

C'est Metzovo qui est le point où aboutissent les grandes vallées convergentes de l'Aliacmon ou Indjé Karassou, d'Apsus Berat, et de l'Aoü ou Vovoussa.

Le premier et le troisième de ces fleuves forment les deux côtés d'un triangle dont le sommet est Metzovo, et dont la base serait une ligne traversant les villes suivantes:

(1) Saloniki; (2) Jenidjé-Vardar; (3) Bodena; (4) Ostrova; (5) Vitolia (Monastir); (6) Resna; (7) Ochrida; (8) Bérat.

Quant aux communications entre ces villes de la base du triangle et son sommet le Metzovo, elles se font par les villes suivantes:

Grévéna:—

1. Saloniki (Katherini, Kolindros), Servia.
2. Saloniki-Verria-Koshani-Yénidjé-Vardar-Verria-Koshani.
3. Bodena-Niaousta-Verria-Koshan-Bodena-Kaïla-Siatistar.
4. Ostrovo-Kaïlar-Siatista.
5. Vitolia-Florina-Castoria.
6. Resna-Castoria.
7. Stuga-Ochrida-Korydja (Giortscha).
8. Berat-Kleïssoura-Premeti (Kerassovo, Liaskovitzi, Konitza), Samarina,

Outre ces communications il y a celles d'Avlona-Tépélény et d'Argyrocastro. Ces communications par des villes, que la statistique donne comme très-peuplées, et dont la grande importance militaire a été prouvée par l'histoire et est relevée par des avantages naturels qui sont très-visibles, font clairement voir que Metzovo sera toujours un point défensif et jamais un point offensif.

Si nous examinons les communications méridionales, nous pouvons nous en former une idée juste, en étudiant le côté sud du plateau de Metzovo et en le considérant pour plus de clarté comme le sommet d'un triangle, dont l'un des côtés se dirige vers Carditza et l'autre vers Arta.

L'Acheloüs, ayant sa source dans le plateau de Metzovo et prenant son cours vers le sud, sépare en quelque sorte l'angle du sommet, et il a d'un côté, comme première limite, le Mont Scavnodichary, et à l'est, la chaîne du Pinde ou les Montagnes Dokhimi, Baba, Neraidha, Itamo (1356), Karavi (2124), Apheticon, Bozoucaki, Smingos, Tzournata (2168), et plus encore à l'est, la chaîne Kodjaka et celle d'Agrapha; il a à l'ouest les Montagnes Peristeri (2100), Kritharia, Kakardista (2000 ?), Tzoumerka, Zygos, Velenikon, Gabrovon (1785), qui rendent impossible toute communication réciproque entre la Thessalie et l'Epire.

Le point le plus élevé d'où les eaux coulent dans les deux vallées, c'est le Mont Zygos (de Metzovo (1700); toutes les rivières qui débouchent dans l'Archipel et dans la Mer Ionienne y prennent leurs sources. Zygos est le point de jonction de toutes les chaînes de montagnes et de leurs embranchements; par conséquent il est aussi le point central naturel de la jonction des deux versants vers l'Archipel et vers la Mer Ionienne, des vallées du Pénée et du Calamas.

L'occupation du point est indispensable. Metzovo, situé sur la jonction des vallées naturelles de communication, est un défilé des plus importants.

Il est la voie de communication entre l'Epire, la Thessalie et la Macédoine. Il forme la seule entrée de l'Epire en Thessalie, et *vice versâ*; cette dernière privée de Metzovo n'a aucune sécurité, ni indépendance, au point de vue commercial et stratégique.

Enfin, c'est par la voie de Metzovo que peut être assurée la communication de la Mer Adriatique et de la Mer Ionienne avec l'Archipel, communication à laquelle se rattachent tant d'intérêts d'une importance universelle.

Au point de vue stratégique, on a expliqué précédemment que c'est un point défensif; mais il a besoin d'être suffisamment défendu; la défense tactique ne suffirait pas; il faut avoir un secteur ou la défense stratégique, puisqu'il est le centre d'un éventail, formé par les sources de l'Aoüs et de l'Aliacmon, et qu'il est ainsi exposé aux

attaques des villes importantes, situées sur les bords de ces rivières ou sur leurs affluents. C'est le seul point stratégique qui puisse assurer le pays contre toute attaque extérieure.

Annexe (B).

Note annexée au Mémoire.

Voyez sur la nationalité des peuples de l'Epire en général et de la Vallée du Calamas en particulier :—

William Eton : "A Survey of the Turkish Empire."
De la Sola : "Tableau Historique de la Turquie, par Thomton."
Leake : "Travels in Northern Greece."
Pouqueville : "Histoire de la Régénération de la Grèce."
Von Hahn : "Albanesische Studien."
Poujade : "Chrétiens et Turcs."
Schmidt : "Das Volks-Leben der Neugriechischen."
Albert Dumont : "Le Balkan et l'Adriatique."
Kiepert : dans le "National Zeitung."

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 30.*)

(No. 95.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 20*, 1880.

THE Porte has recently communicated to the foreign Missions a new Code of criminal and civil laws and a new order of judicial procedure which have been introduced into the Ottoman Empire. They have already been promulgated and put into execution, and have given rise, as your Lordship is aware, to almost general complaint and dissatisfaction.

I referred the Porte's communication to Mr. Consul-General Fawcett, and I inclose his reply. I consulted some of my colleagues on the subject, and they were unanimously of opinion that we should resist the application of the new laws and regulations to foreigners in cases where they are opposed to the Capitulations, and that we should at once inform the Porte that we could not give our consent to them until we had had time to consider them, and to ascertain whether or not they were at variance with our rights and privileges. In order to come to an understanding on the subject it was agreed that, as "Doyen" of the Diplomatic Body, I should summon a meeting of the Heads of Missions to discuss the question, and to decide upon the course we should pursue.

The meeting was attended by all my colleagues except the Swedish Minister, who was absent on account of indisposition. The French Ambassador read the draft of a note (copy inclosed) which he informed us he had the intention of addressing to the Porte. It was unanimously agreed that each of the Heads of Missions should make a similar representation against the application of the new laws and regulations before they could be fully examined and reported upon by our Dragomans. It was settled that we should each address a note to the Porte in the sense of M. Fournier's, but without adopting its precise language, and that all our notes should be presented to-day, our Dragomans being instructed to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs at the same time that our Consuls and Vice-Consuls would be directed to protest against the application of such new laws and regulations as might be in violation of the Capitulations, and of the recognized rights and privileges of foreigners.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 319.

Consul-General Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, January 7*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 27th ultimo, together with copies of some pamphlets containing laws and regulations recently promulgated by the Turkish Government.

This is not the first time that similar copies of these laws have been promulgated by the Porte. I am informed that on the 14th May last Mr. Dragoman Stavrides reported privately to your Excellency on the subject. Further, that on the 12th November and 9th December last Mr. Dragoman Alischan also reported privately to your Excellency on the same subject. I believe also that the Dragomans of other Embassies also made reports. At any rate, whether in consequence of the adverse opinion of the Dragomans or not, a Commission was appointed to revise the criminal part of the proposed Code, and that Commission is still sitting. I venture to suggest that the best course to pursue for the Representatives of the foreign Powers here would be to appoint a Committee of Dragomans to report on the question. On receiving such a Report, the Representatives of the foreign Powers would then take united action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. FAWCETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 319.

M. Fournier to Sawas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Péra, le 4 Janvier*, 1880.

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur du m'adresser à la date du 23 du mois dernier des brochures en Turc, contenant les nouveaux Codes d'Instruction Criminelle et de Procédure Civile promulgués par le Gouvernement Impérial, ainsi que des règlements relatifs à l'exécution des jugements et à l'institution d'un Ministère Public et d'un Notariat.

Je vous remercie de la communication de ces lois et règlements, qui, dans la pensée de votre Excellence, sont appelés à compléter la réorganisation judiciaire de l'Empire. Je me propose, vu leur importance, de les soumettre à un examen consciencieux. Vous trouverez naturel, je l'espère, que je diffère d'assurer l'application de ces nouvelles dispositions législatives aux sujets Français, tant à Constantinople que dans les provinces, jusqu'à ce que j'aie été à même de me former, à leur égard, un jugement motivé sur l'appréciation exacte de la situation que crécrait l'application de ces nouvelles mesures. Je veux bien reconnaître que l'ensemble de ces lois pourrait constituer un progrès ; mais je sais que certaines de leurs dispositions ont été hautement signalées par les hommes les plus compétents comme devant être indispensablement retranchées ou modifiées dans l'intérêt des justiciables.

Les critiques autorisées qui se sont fait jour à Constantinople même dès le lendemain de leur publication, étaient de nature à engager le Ministère Impérial à en suspendre l'exécution jusqu'à ce que les Articles particulièrement visés fussent soumis à une nouvelle discussion.

La Porte en décide autrement, et je regrette qu'elle ait envoyé prématurément à ses Valis des provinces des ordres dans le sens d'une application immédiate.

Les correspondances de nos Consuls sont unanimes à signaler les inconvénients de cette nouvelle organisation pour les justiciables et pour la justice.

Vous avez remarqué, d'ailleurs, M. le Ministre, que les textes que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me transmettre sont de simples projets de lois destinés à être soumis à la Chambre des Députés. Si cette Chambre avait été réellement appelée à les discuter il est hors de doute qu'elle y aurait apporté en plusieurs points les modifications nécessaires, et notre attention eût été éveillée par la publicité d'une aussi importante discussion.

Tel étant le caractère de ces lois, je manquerais à mes devoirs envers les intérêts qui sont confiés à ma sollicitude et à ma surveillance, si j'acquiesçais sans examen préalable à leur application immédiate à mes nationaux.

Je ferai cette étude, en tenant compte du travail que votre Excellence a bien voulu me transmettre pour faire ressortir les avantages futurs de la réorganisation judiciaire si subitement décrétée.

Votre Excellence me permettra de lui faire remarquer que quand dans un pays d'aussi radicaux changements sont apportés dans une des branches les plus délicates et importantes de la vie sociale, il est d'une prévoyante politique que tout le monde soit prévenu longtemps à l'avance de façon à ce que les interessés ne puissent en ignorer. Or, si le travail a été imprimé il y a plus de deux ans le public ne l'a pas connu, et les Missions étrangères qui ont tant d'intérêts à sauvegarder n'ont été averties que vers Noël dernier, il n'y a pas quinze jours, par l'envoi de textes Turcs, non-accompagnés de traduction.

Dans de pareilles conditions la mise en pratique d'une réforme aussi grave ne serait pas sans inconvénients, et nous prions la Porte de la suspendre vis-à-vis des étrangers.

La Sublime Porte sait que les meilleures réformes ont besoin d'être préparées longuement, et que les périodes de transition nécessitent beaucoup de ménagements et de tempéraments pour éviter autant que possible les froissements des intérêts individuels.

Une Commission est donc nommée par les chefs de Mission et choisie parmi les Dragomans les plus versés dans les questions judiciaires. Elle est chargée de donner son avis motivé sur la matière, et je serais heureux que votre Excellence voulut bien indiquer quelqu'un dont les connaissances spéciales seraient appréciées par elle et qui se mettrait en rapport avec nos Délégués.

Agréez, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1880.

I HAVE had the honour of receiving your Excellency's note of the 23rd ultimo, transmitting to me four pamphlets ("brochures") in Turkish, containing the text of the laws and regulations recently promulgated by the Imperial Government relating to a new procedure in criminal and civil cases, to the organization of the Civil Tribunals, to the institution of a Public Ministry (of Justice) and of a Notariat, and to the execution of judicial sentences.

While thanking your Excellency for this communication, I would observe that it is my duty, before expressing any opinion upon the subject to which it refers, to ascertain previously how far the laws and regulations in question may affect the rights and privileges secured to British subjects by Treaty or otherwise.

Information has reached me from trustworthy sources, founded upon high authority, that it is indispensable in the interest of justice that some of them should be withdrawn altogether or should be greatly modified. Her Majesty's Consular officers are unanimous in stating that many of them give rise to serious inconvenience and to the miscarriage of justice. It is to be regretted that, considering the objections and criticisms that have been generally heard with respect to them, even in the capital itself, the Porte should have so hastily sent orders to the Valis of provinces to put them into immediate execution.

They have never been publicly discussed, and no means have been taken to elicit any expression of public opinion with regard to them. They are termed by the Porte itself "Projects of Laws to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies." They have been communicated to me in Turkish, without any translation. It will require some time and labour to have them put into English. I had been scarcely informed of them when I learnt that they had already been promulgated and put into force.

Under these circumstances, your Excellency can scarcely be surprised if I decline to call upon British subjects, whose rights and interests may be seriously affected by these new laws and regulations, to conform to them without having first made myself acquainted with their nature. I have therefore to request that the Sublime Porte will suspend their application, as far as regards British subjects, until I am in a position to state that I can accept them.

It has been agreed between my colleagues, the Chiefs of Missions, and myself, that we should appoint a Commission, consisting of our Dragomans, who are best acquainted with such matters, to examine and report to me upon the changes that have been introduced into the Turkish judicial system, and to advise us as to the course we should pursue. It is very desirable that the Sublime Porte, on its part, should delegate a person specially qualified to deal with the question, and able to furnish any explanations that may be required, who could place himself in communication with the proposed Commission. When that Commission has made its Report, I shall have the honour of addressing your Excellency further on this subject.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 320.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 97.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney's despatch No. 32 of the 25th October, of which a copy was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 957 of the 4th November last, relative to the alleged murder of a cattle-dealer near Arta, I have the honour to inclose a translation of a telegram on the subject from the Vali of Janina to the Minister of the Interior, which has been confidentially communicated to me by the Porte.

I have sent a copy of this telegram to Mr. Blakeney for his observations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 320.

The Vali of Janina to the Ministry of the Interior.—(Communicated confidentially to Mr. Marinich.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *December* $\frac{12}{24}$, 1879.

ANSWER to telegraphic orders of December 9. In the Caza of Narda there is no robber of the name of Capso, nor was the broker of a certain Kebrouli, wool merchant, taken to Narda; but simply as Narda was a resort of brigands the Commander of Narda had ordered the soldiers to proceed thither, and their "Mulazim," Feiz Ullah, had captured a certain Prasimo, a bullock dealer, and whilst taking him to Narda he was killed in trying to escape. Nothing else has occurred of the kind, according to information received from the Commander of Narda, but inquiries are being made.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 98.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a telegram which has been received at the Porte from the Vali of Kossovo, relating to the recent engagement between Albanians and Montenegrins in the neighbourhood of Plava.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 321.

Fikri Pasha to the Turkish Prime Minister.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Caïmacam d'Ipek m'informe que les Monténégrins ont attaqué dans la nuit du 26 du mois courant (v.s.), le village de Méta, située à une heure de distance de Plava, et ont emporté 200 têtes environ de bétail. Le lendemain, s'étant mis en marche avec des forces considérables de trois côtés différents sur Gusinjé et Plava, la population s'empressa de leur opposer une vive résistance. Après un combat sanglant, où les Monténégrins ont eu plusieurs morts et blessés et dans lequel 40 Musulmans environ ont trouvé la mort et 50 ou 60 ont été blessés, on est parvenu à reprendre les villages de Vélika, Pipeti, et Erzamitcha, que les Monténégrins avaient occupés. D'autre part, le Caïmacam de Berana donne des informations identiques, et ajoute que dans le combat susmentionné un Capitaine Monténégrin a perdu la vie.

No. 322.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, January 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, and one inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard on the subject of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 322.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, January 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the arrival at Salonica of M. Linche as Roumanian Consul in Macedonia to reside at Salonica.

He is accompanied by a Secretary and two Interpreters, and has entered into official relations with the Ottoman authorities and foreign Consular Corps at this place.

The advent of a Roumanian Political Agent in Macedonia at the present moment is very significant, when viewed in connection with the "Macedo-Roumanian Syllogos" or society established at Bucharest for the propagation of education among the Koutzo-Vlachs in European Turkey.

The Greek Archbishop of Salonica has called my attention to the inclosed notice which was recently published in the Greek newspapers relative to this movement, the real object of which, he says, is to separate the Koutzo-Vlachs from the Greek community, and to set up a Church of their own.

His Eminence also told me that M. Linche has already opened a propaganda in that direction, and is trying to induce the Vlach villages to dismiss their Greek priests and schoolmasters, and employ Roumanians in their stead, to be paid from the fund of the Syllogos at Bucharest.

A similar movement was set on foot before the late war, but met with very limited success. What effect its revival will produce under the new conditions and aspirations developed by that war in the Balkan Peninsula it would be premature to say. I shall, however, watch its influences and tendencies, and report the result to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 322.

Notice published in a Greek Newspaper.

(Translation from the Greek.)

THE second session of the Macedo-Roumanian Syllogos took place at Bucharest on the 30th September, under the Presidency of M. G. Kitzo, during which the members of the Committee were elected, consisting of thirty-five members—foremost the Metropolitan and Bishops of the Lower Danube, M. Bratiano, Princes D. Ghika and J. Ghika, M. J. Kambourano, and others.

During this session a speech was read by the Archimandrite Kyriaco on behalf of a collection of 60,000 volumes for a public library in Macedonia.

Next Sunday the third session will take place, and we hope that the Syllogos will begin at once the work comprised within its statutes:—

Article 1. The Syllogos of the Macedo-Roumanian public instruction undertakes to spread beyond the Danube and the Balkans the Roumanian instruction.

Art. 2. To protect the several Roumanian schools and colonies in the Balkan Peninsula.

Art. 3. To superintend the existing Roumanian schools, and to improve them.

Art. 4. The Syllogos will work through the schools and the press for the benefit of the people, transfusing knowledge by every means, proving thus that salvation is fraternity.

No. 323.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, January .)

(Confidential.)

(Extract.) *Vienna, January 17, 1880.*

SIR HENRY ELLIOT told me yesterday that Lord Salisbury remembered subsequently to have given the advice to the Porte to connect the demand of the surrender of Kuči-Kraïna with the surrender of Gusinjé. He, therefore, was not in the position to support our steps at Constantinople as was his intention, and as has been mentioned in the telegram No. 1 of the 9th instant.

I can only regret this, and request your Excellency not only to come back at the next opportunity to the arguments expressed in my despatch of the 5th instant, but also to draw his Lordship's attention to the fact of the majority of the Delimitation Commission—and especially the English Commissioner (Protocols Nos. 25 and 26)—having emitted the opinion that the tribes of Kuči-Kraïna are so closely connected as well amongst themselves as with those of Kuči-Drekalowize by the possession of common pasture-grounds, that a separation would be most difficult. The Commission therefore pointed out the opportunity of a modification of the respective dispositions of the Berlin Treaty. The decision on this subject has been reserved to the Powers.

We are far from contesting the right of the Porte on Kuči-Kraïna, but we see in the above one more and a weighty reason for separating the question of Gusinjé from that of Kuči-Kraïna. We do not think it desirable either to check altogether, by mixing up both questions, the solution of the former, or to prejudice the future decision on the delimitation with regard to the latter.

No. 324.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31, noon.)

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, January 31, 1880, 10 A.M.*

THE Governments of Greece and Netherlands have notified officially their recognition of Roumania, and their desire to open regular diplomatic relations.

No. 325.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31, 6·10 P.M.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, January 31, 1880, 2·15 P.M.*

MY telegram No. 6 and your Lordship's answer No. 7.

Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé reports that Montenegro does not seem disinclined to entertain proposed exchange of territory. Instructions have therefore been sent to Italian Minister at Constantinople to advise Porte to lay the proposal formally before the Powers.

No. 326.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 31, 7·5 P.M.)

(No. 52.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, January 31, 1880, 6·15 P.M.*

ITALIAN Minister informs me that he has heard from his Government that the Prince of Montenegro will accept exchange referred to in my telegram No. 38, on condition that the frontier-line between Lake Scutari and the sea, proposed by the Russian and Montenegrin Commissioners and rejected by the other members of the Delimitation Commission, be given to Montenegro. Italian Minister has sounded Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, who appears disposed to accept this arrangement, which would put an end to this troublesome question. Shall I support it officially?